DC
BATMAN
BATMAN GIANT
50c
NO. 262
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
Last Will and TESTAMENT
...and to my ward, Dick Grayson, known as Robin, I leave the round sum of $10.66.
Bruce Wayne
(ALIAS) Batman
NEW! "THE SCARECROW'S TRAIL OF FEAR!"
A DOUBLE-LENGTH SHOCKER-- "THE ROUND ROBIN DEATH THREATS!"

BATMAN AND THE MUMMY
THE MUMMY HAS CAPTURED THE PROFESSOR AND HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER!
GREAT CHEOPS!
THEY VIOLATED THE TOMB OF HIS ANCESTORS AND HE WANTS REVENGE!
I'LL ROLL THIS TWO TON STONE... THEY'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!
EVEN MY SPECIAL MUMMY RAY GUN WON'T STOP HIM...
WELL, AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T KILL A MUMMY!
RIGHT... HE'S ALREADY DEAD! WHAT'LL WE DO?
WE'VE GOT TO HAVE A SECRET WEAPON... I'VE GOT IT!
WHAT IS IT? WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST!
WE'LL LURE HIM AWAY WITH AN OFFER HE CAN'T RESIST!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE. WHAT'S THAT?
M-M-M! DELICIOUS HOSTESS TWINKIES! I CAN'T RESIST THAT MOIST SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMY FILLING!
HERE HE COMES!
M-M-M! I'VE BEEN AROUND FOR 2000 YEARS AND I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING SO GOOD!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE! LET'S GO!
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FOR THESE DELICIOUS HOSTESS TWINKIES! MMM-
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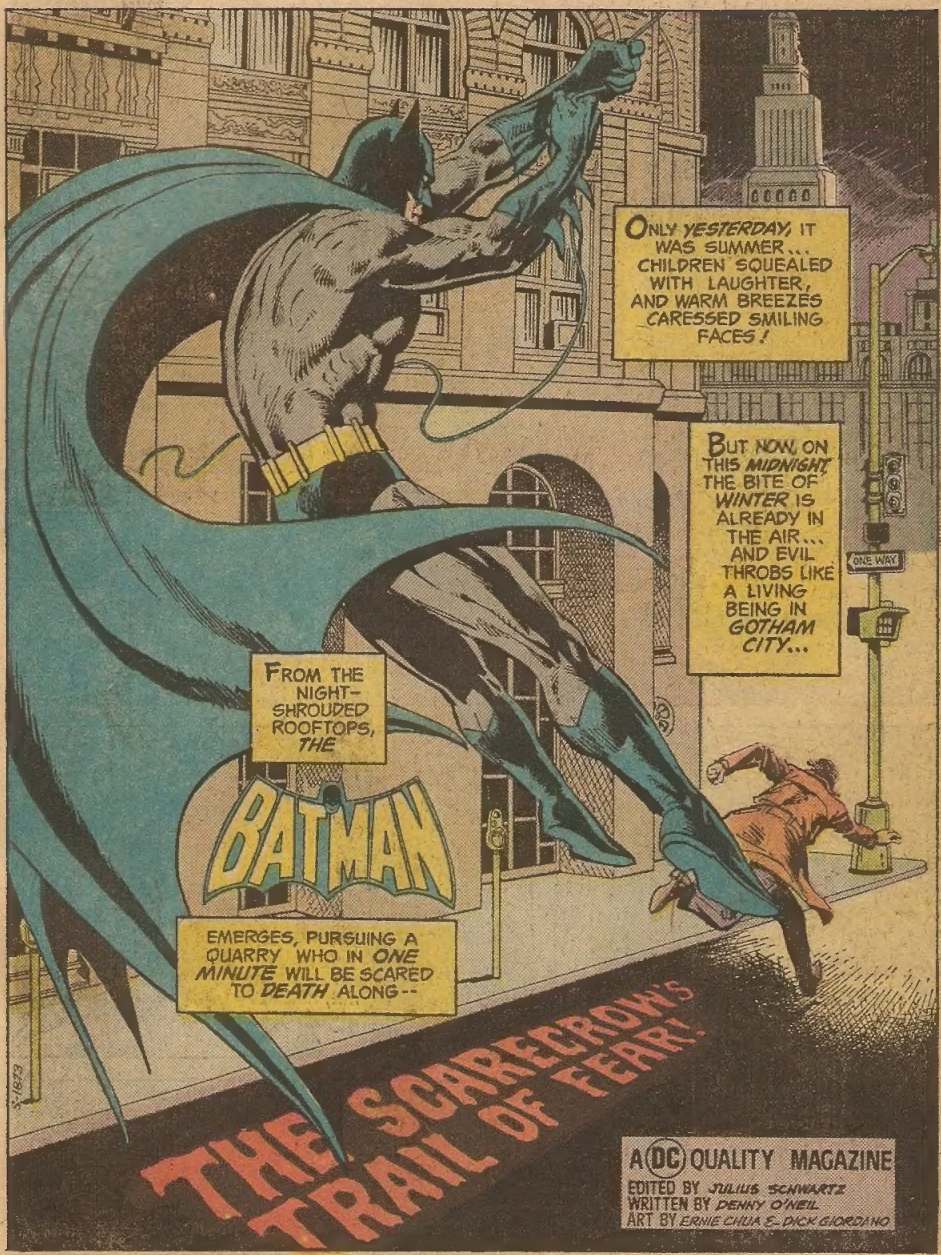
ONLY YESTERDAY, IT WAS SUMMER... CHILDREN SQUEALED WITH LAUGHTER, AND WARM BREEZES CARESSED SMILING FACES!
BUT NOW, ON THIS MIDNIGHT THE BITE OF WINTER IS ALREADY IN THE AIR... AND EVIL THROBS LIKE A LIVING BEING IN GOTHAM CITY...
ONE WAY
FROM THE NIGHT-SHROUDED ROOFTOPS, THE
BATMAN
EMERGES, PURSUING A QUARRY WHO IN ONE MINUTE WILL BE SCARED TO DEATH ALONG--
THE SCARECROW'S TRAIL OF FEAR!
A DC QUALITY MAGAZINE
EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
WRITTEN BY DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY ERNIE CHUA & DICK GIORDANO

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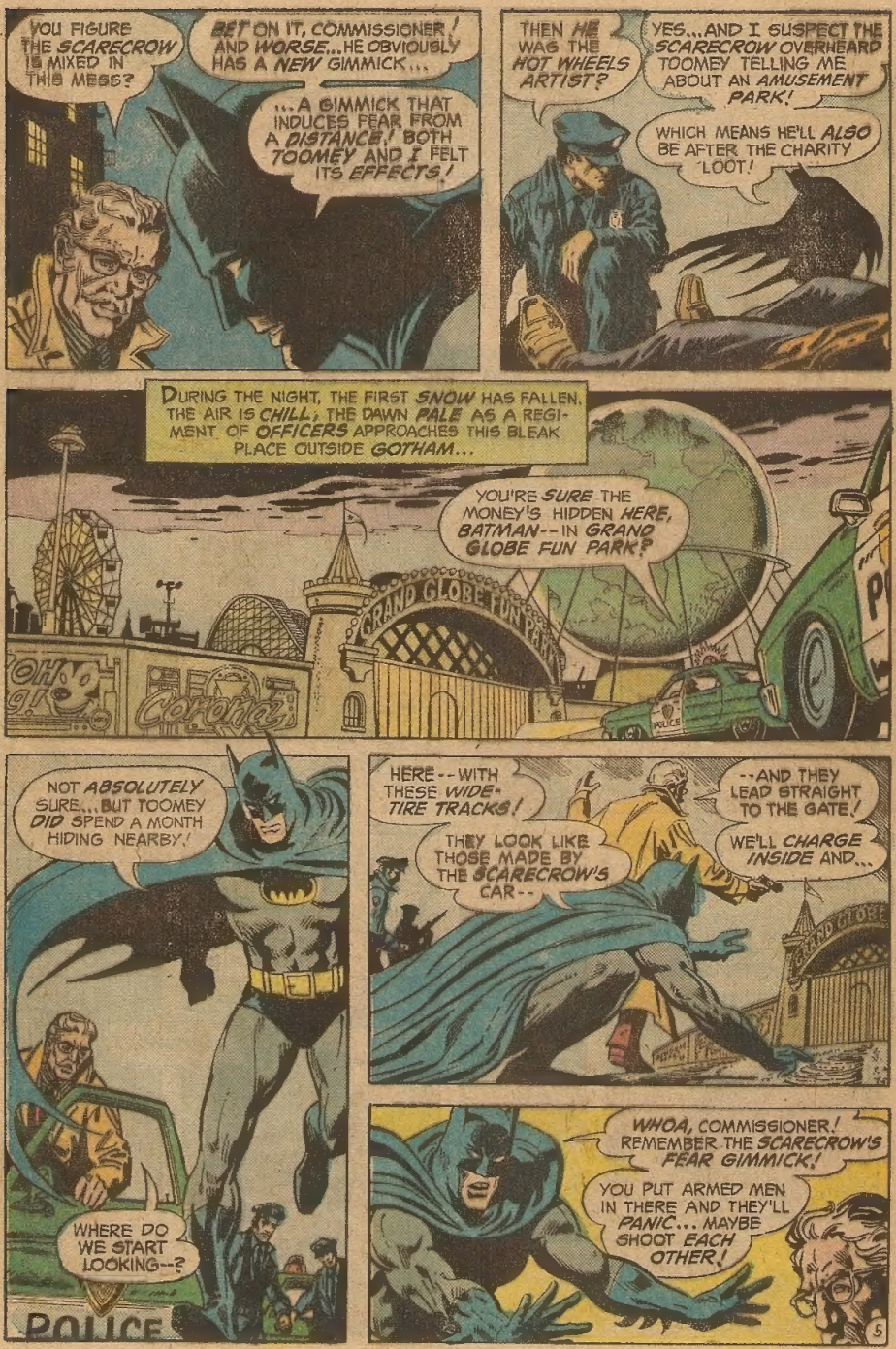
RUN, ROBERT TOOMEY! HEAR THE BREATH EXPLODING FROM YOUR TORTURED LUNGS AND RUN! RUN UNTIL YOU CAN RUN NO FURTHER!...
KLIK
KLIK KI
KLIK
PANT PANT SAFE!
HE'LL NEVER FIND ME NOW!
WON'T I--?
THE GASP BATMAN!
YOU STOLE A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, TOOMEY-- STOLE IT FROM A CHARITY BALL LAST MONTH!
YOU'VE HIDDEN IT--
--AND I WANT TO KNOW WHERE!
N-NO! I WON'T TELL!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, TOOMEY?
GO AHEAD-- TRY!
2

MY TURN--!
KRUSH
THE MONEY, TOOMEY!
A-A-AMUSEMENT PARK...
OKAY, WHICH PARK--AND WHERE?
WHIR... WIRL... C-CAN'T TALK!
T-TOO S-SCARED...
HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND WITH FEAR!
AND... AND NOW I FEEL FRIGHTENED, TOO!
STEADY, FELLA! TAKE IT EASY...
HE CAN'T HEAR ME! HE'S DEAD!
SUDDENLY, A HIGH-POWERED ENGINE ROARS! THE DARK PASSAGE FILLS WITH LIGHT AND--
A CAR! HEADING STRAIGHT FOR ME!
RROOOAAARRR
3

HE MISSED... BUT NOT FOR LACK OF TRYING!
BATMAN-- YOU ALL RIGHT?
COMMISSIONER GORDON! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS DISMAL PLACE?
YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE TRAILING TOOMEY!
WE POLICE MAY NOT BE BATMEN, BUT WE DON'T SPEND ALL OUR TIME GIVING PARKING TICKETS!
SPEAKING OF THE LATE MISTER TOOMEY... WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M NOT SURE... BUT I THINK HE WAS--
--SCARED TO DEATH!
BY--ER-- YOU, BATMAN?
HARDLY... I WAS ALMOST AS SPOOKED AS HE WAS!
IT ADDS UP TO A CRIMINAL I HOPED WAS OUT OF THE ACTION FOREVER!
A MAN NAMED JONATHAN CRANE... A PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY WHO WAS SHUNNED BECAUSE OF HIS APPEARANCE...
THEY RIDICULE MY LOOKS... MY SHABBY CLOTHES! THEY CALL ME A SCARECROW!
"SO HE BECAME A SCARECROW... A SYMBOL OF BOTH POVERTY AND FEAR... WHO USED FEAR AS A WEAPON TO GET MONEY..."


YOU FIGURE THE SCARECROW IS MIXED IN THIS MESS?
BET ON IT, COMMISSIONER! AND WORSE...HE OBVIOUSLY HAS A NEW GIMMICK...
...A GIMMICK THAT INDUCES FEAR FROM A DISTANCE! BOTH TOOMEY AND I FELT ITS EFFECTS!
THEN HE WAS THE HOT WHEELS ARTIST?
YES...AND I SUSPECT THE SCARECROW OVERHEARD TOOMEY TELLING ME ABOUT AN AMUSEMENT PARK!
WHICH MEANS HE'LL ALSO BE AFTER THE CHARITY LOOT!
DURING THE NIGHT, THE FIRST SNOW HAS FALLEN. THE AIR IS CHILL, THE DAWN PALE AS A REGIMENT OF OFFICERS APPROACHES THIS BLEAK PLACE OUTSIDE GOTHAM...
YOU'RE SURE THE MONEY'S HIDDEN HERE, BATMAN--IN GRAND GLOBE FUN PARK?
GRAND GLOBE FUN PARK
Corona
POLICE
NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE...BUT TOOMEY DID SPEND A MONTH HIDING NEARBY!
WHERE DO WE START LOOKING--?
POLICE
HERE--WITH THESE WIDE-TIRE TRACKS!
THEY LOOK LIKE THOSE MADE BY THE SCARECROW'S CAR--
--AND THEY LEAD STRAIGHT TO THE GATE!
WE'LL CHARGE INSIDE AND...
GRAND GLOBE
WHOA, COMMISSIONER! REMEMBER THE SCARECROW'S FEAR GIMMICK!
YOU PUT ARMED MEN IN THERE AND THEY'LL PANIC... MAYBE SHOOT EACH OTHER!
5

I'VE FOUGHT THE SCARECROW BEFORE -- AND WON!
I'LL STAND A BETTER CHANCE ALONE!
ALL RIGHT-- I'LL GIVE YOU ONE HOUR... NOT A SECOND LONGER!
THEN WE'RE COMING IN... SHOOTING!
AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE...
THE BATMAN SHOULD ARRIVE SHORTLY!
I TRUST YOU WILL BE EQUAL TO THE OCCASION!
YOU BETCHA!! I BEEN WAITIN' FOR A CRACK AT HIM EVER SINCE HE PUT ME IN THE JOINT!
I WISH YOU GOOD HUNTING! HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU FAIL... THIS WON'T!
YOU GONNA BEAT BATS WITH A WALKIE-TALKIE? COME ON!
NOT A WALKIE-TALKIE-- A MIND-BOGGLING INVENTION!
OBSERVE! I HAVE MERELY TO SWITCH IT ON AND--
--YOU ARE FROZEN WITH DREAD!
S-S-STOP!
E-E-ENOUGH!
IT SENDS VIBRATIONS TO THE PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM...
...THE PART OF THE HUMAN BODY THAT CONTROLS THE INVOLUNTARY EMOTIONS!
I DON'T DIG IT, SCARECROW!
ALL I KNOW IS MY LADY GAT HERE... SHE SENDS LEAD TO ANY PART OF THE BODY!
AN' I'M COUNTIN' ON HER TO PUT THE NIX ON THE BATMAN!
JUST LET HIM COME THROUGH THAT GATE AND--
AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE GUNMAN'S UNVOICED THOUGHT...
IT'S OPENIN'..!
CREEK
6

Snik
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
WOMP
7

TOOMEY SAID "WHIR..." OR "WIRL..." BEFORE HE DIED! HE WAS TOO TERRIFIED TO GET IT ALL OUT...
...BUT MY HUNCH IS HE WAS TRYING TO CONFESS THE LOCATION OF THE MONEY!
WHIRLIGIG
THE WHIRLIGIG!
COULD THIS BE WHAT TOOMEY TRIED TO TELL ME?
THERE HE IS... THE BATMAN!
HE AIN'T NO BAT! --HE'S A PIGEON ... OUR PIGEON!
WE WAIT TILL HE'S ON THE DINGUS--
KLIK
--AN' WE TURN IT ON TO THROW HIM OFF BALANCE!
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS FEED 'IM THIS!
TK
HERE, BATMAN-- HAVE A PINEAPPLE ON US!
HE'S SLIPPED... INTO ONE OF THE CHAIRS!
SO HE'LL DIE SITTIN'--!
8

VA-WOMM
H-HE'S GONE--!?
--WITHOUT A TRACE! BUT... HOW?!
HOW, INDEED? TO LEARN THE ANSWER, WE MUST BACK UP TEN SECONDS... TO THE MOMENT THE BATMAN GLANCED UP AND SAW DANGER--!
HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED BODY REACTED INSTANTLY...
...AND HE HURLED HIMSELF IN A PERFECTLY FLAT DIVE TOWARD THE OPENING IN THE CENTER OF THE REVOLVING PLATFORM!...
VA-WOMM
THOSE TEN SECONDS HAVE ELAPSED ...AND NOW--
H-HE'S GONE--!?
--WITHOUT A TRACE! BUT... HOW?!
9

LOOKING FOR *ME*, SLIMIES?

THE BATM— MMF!

chok

KAPOPP

AFTER A *THOROUGH* SEARCH...

NO *SIGN* OF THE LOOT ON THE *WHIRLIGIG!?*

AND I HAD TO *TALK* GORDON INTO LETTING *ME* HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN!

WHEN HE HEARS HOW I'VE BEEN ON THE *WRONG TRACK*--

--*GORDON* WILL LAUGH AT ME! SO WILL *ROBIN*... *ALFRED*... THE *JOKER*-- THE *WHOLE WORLD!*

WHAT AM I *SCARED* ABOUT? I HAVEN'T FAILED YET--

--AND EVEN IF I *DID*, *ROBIN* AND THE REST WOULDN'T *MAKE* FUN OF *ME!*

THERE'S *NO REASON* I SHOULD BE SO *SHAKY*--

WAIT!-- *THAT'S* A *CLUE!* I STARTED FEELING *SCARED* WHEN I REACHED *THIS* SIDE OF THE RIDE!

CONCLUSION -- THE *SCARECROW* AND HIS GIZMO ARE CLOSE BY!

WEIRD! I'M FOLLOWING AN INVISIBLE *TRAIL*... THE TRAIL OF MY *OWN FEAR!*

10

ASSUMING THE SCARECROW'S SEARCHING FOR THE LOOT-- AND ASSUMING HE OVERHEARD TOOMEY'S DYING MESSAGE...
--HE AND THE CASH MAY BOTH BE AT THE WHIRLWIND ROLLER COASTER!
CAUTIOUSLY, THE BATMAN CLIMBS THE ROLLER COASTER, HIS KEEN EYES SCANNING EVERY INCH OF THE ICY TRACK...
...UNAWARE HE IS BEING WATCHED!...
READY, GUYS?
I MUST BE GETTING HOT... I'M SHAKING LIKE A FIRST-GRADER WITH A BAD REPORT CARD!
I COULD PROBABLY HIT THE SCARECROW WITH A BASE-BALL... IF I KNEW WHERE TO THROW IT!
SO WHAT'S MY NEXT MOVE--?
READY AN' ANXIOUS--
--TO BAG A BATMAN!
LIKE THE SCARECROW SAYS... GOOD HUNTIN'!
CREAKING, HISSING, THE MINIATURE TRAIN BEGINS TO ASCEND WITH ITS CARGO OF KILLERS...
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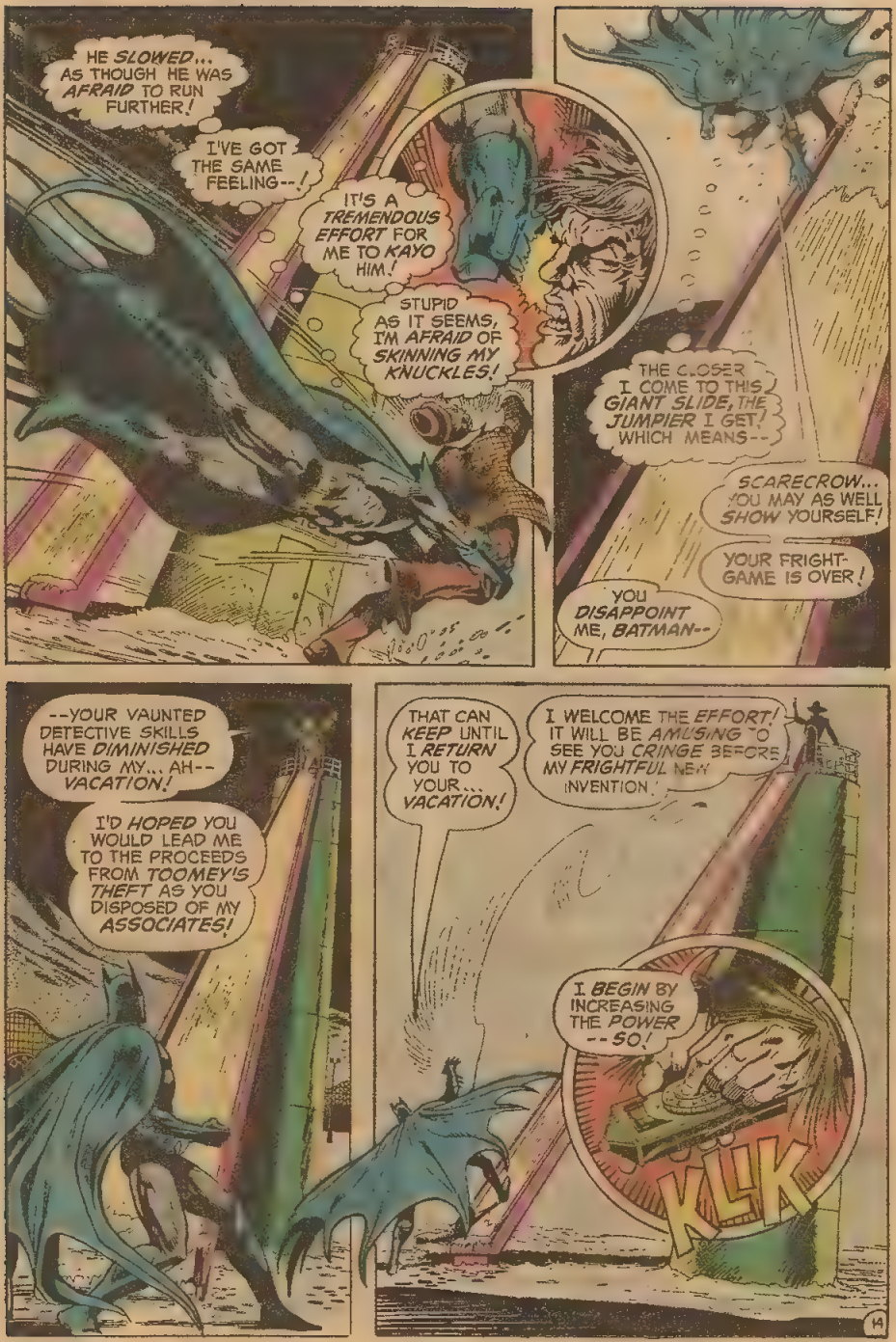
AT THE VERY APEX OF THE MOUNTAINOUS RISE, THE MASKED MANHUNTER SENSES MOTION BEHIND HIM! HE SPINS AROUND--
--AND THE WIND BRINGS TO HIS EARS A TAUNT...
YOU WON A PRIZE, BATMAN--A FACE FULL OF BUCKSHOT!
HEY, WHY WASTE THE AMMO?
HE'S DOWN--
YEAH... AN' OUT!
LET'S JUST RUN 'IM OVER!
WHEEE! WHAT FUN!
YOU SEE 'IM?
NAW... HE MUSTA FALLEN!
WE'LL COLLECT 'IM--
--ON A POSTAGE STAMP!
12

13


HE SLOWED... AS THOUGH HE WAS AFRAID TO RUN FURTHER!
I'VE GOT THE SAME FEELING--!
IT'S A TREMENDOUS EFFORT FOR ME TO KAYO HIM!
STUPID AS IT SEEMS, I'M AFRAID OF SKINNING MY KNUCKLES!
THE CLOSER I COME TO THIS GIANT SLIDE, THE JUMPIER I GET! WHICH MEANS--
SCARECROW... YOU MAY AS WELL SHOW YOURSELF!
YOUR FRIGHT-GAME IS OVER!
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, BATMAN--
--YOUR VAUNTED DETECTIVE SKILLS HAVE DIMINISHED DURING MY... AH-- VACATION!
I'D HOPED YOU WOULD LEAD ME TO THE PROCEEDS FROM TOOMEY'S THEFT AS YOU DISPOSED OF MY ASSOCIATES!
THAT CAN KEEP UNTIL I RETURN YOU TO YOUR... VACATION!
I WELCOME THE EFFORT! IT WILL BE AMUSING TO SEE YOU CRINGE BEFORE MY FRIGHTFUL NEW INVENTION.
I BEGIN BY INCREASING THE POWER --SO!
KLIK
14

STARTING TO FEEL A TRIFLE ... UNEASY, BATMAN?
NOPE! I'M CALM AS A CLAM, SCARECROW!
KLIK
A CRAWLING ON YOUR SKIN, BATMAN?
FLUTTERING IN YOUR BELLY?
UNH-UH!
KLIK
YOUR FOREHEAD COVERED WITH COLD SWEAT?
YOUR NERVES SPASM?
NONE OF THAT!
KLIK-K-K-K-K-K
15

DRYNESS IN THE THROAT? POUNDING IN THE TEMPLES?
YOU'RE DESCRIBING A MIGHTY SICK MAN... AND I FEEL FINE!
BLAST!
TIRED OF YOUR TOY? IN THAT CASE--
--I'LL DISPOSE OF IT FOR YOU!
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME... WHY--! WHY WEREN'T YOU AFFECTED?
OHHHH... I DID EXPERIENCE A CERTAIN QUEASINESS! BUT THEN, I ASKED MYSELF HOW YOU STAYED CALM!
THE ANSWER IS... YOU KNEW THERE WAS NO REASON FOR FEAR!
SINCE IT WAS YOUR GADGET IT WAS LOGICAL TO UNDERSTAND THAT I HAD NOTHING TO FEAR, EITHER!
SIMPLE MIND OVER MATTER, SCARECROW!
B-B-BATMAN ...N-NO! I... I...I'M S-S-S-S-S-S--
SCARED, SCARECROW? --DIDN'T YOU KNOW I STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF CRIMINALS?

P-PLEASE D-DON'T...
H-H-HIT...
...M-M-ME...
YOUR TIME WAS UP, BATMAN! BUT AS USUAL, I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED... NOT FOR A SECOND!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO--
--TO THOSE WHO WAIT!
LIMP AS HIS [illegible], THE SCARECROW SLIDES DOWNWARD--

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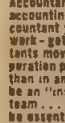

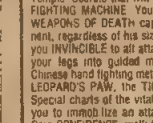
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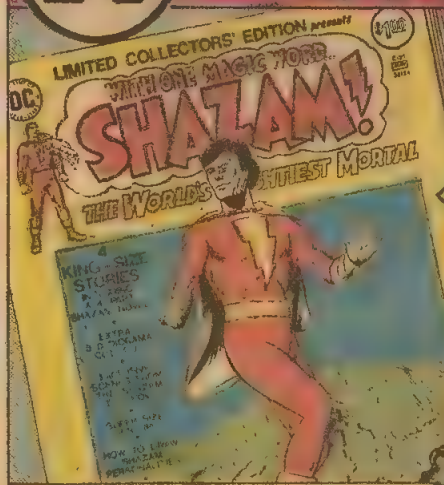

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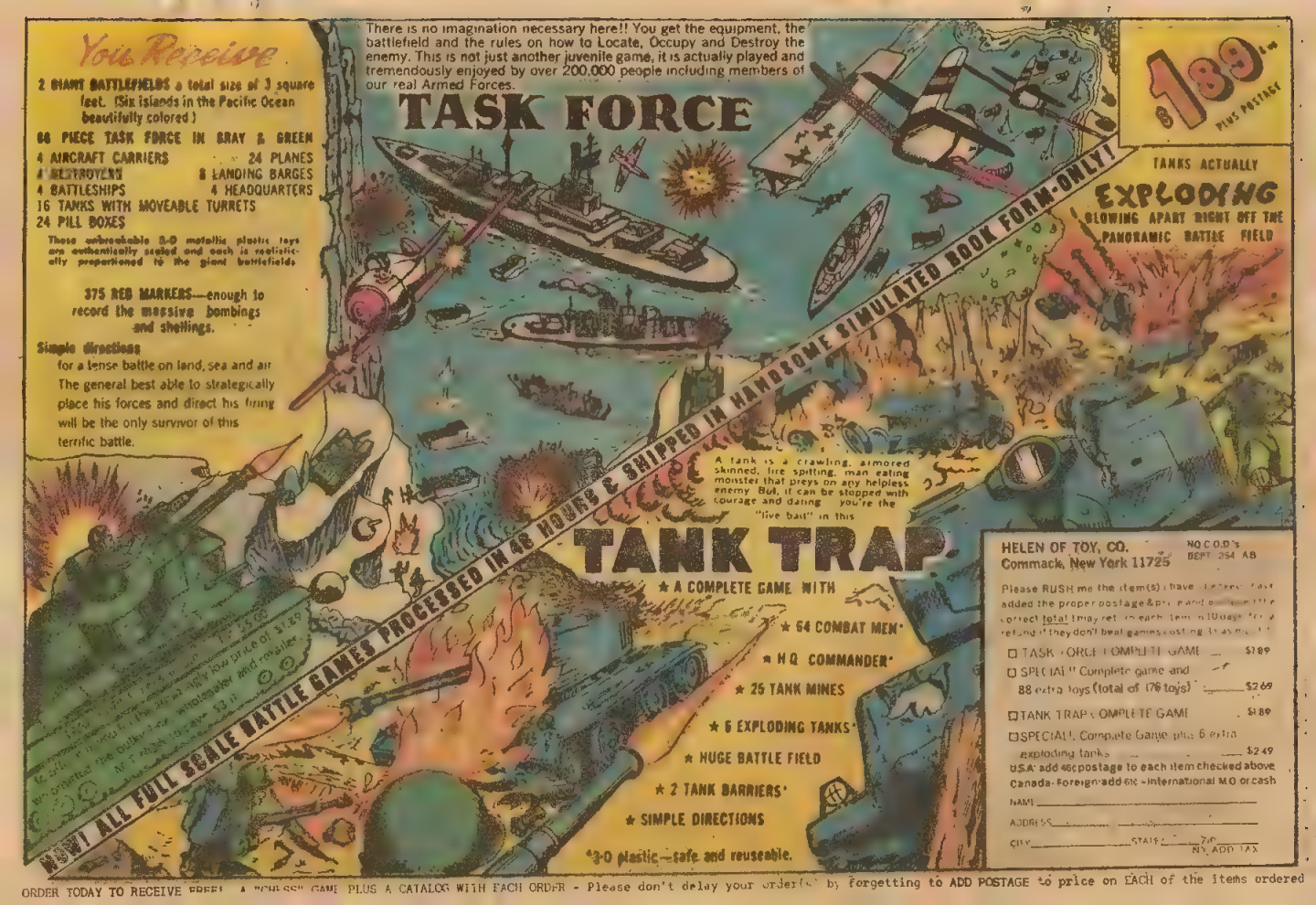
SUMMER WILL COME... AND EVIL WILL BE FORGOTTEN!
THE END
18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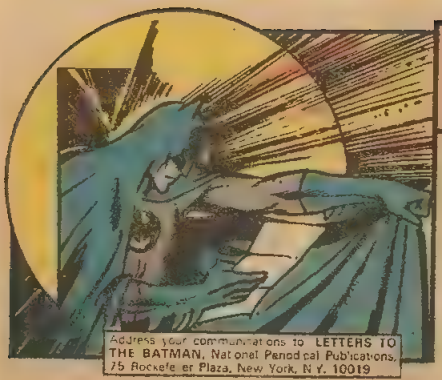

Address your communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019

LETTERS to the BATMAN

S-1926

Dear Editor:

"The Night of the Shadow" in **BATMAN #259** is a vast improvement over last year's **Batman-Shadow** meeting. Back then, **The Shadow** complimented **The Batman** on being such a talented crimefighter and I kept wondering why, since **The Batman** had spent the entire issue getting himself into jams from which **The Shadow** had to free him. This time, **The Batman** was almost entirely on his own, winning his battles all by himself, as **The Shadow** indeed notes he must at story's end.

"Night" was not just a typical bats-and-robbers tale like most of the stories in this magazine. Whether intentional or not, it became a statement on fate, evil, youth, and the process of maturing. The vehicle for these themes was that tried-and-true plot device of mystery and Gothic horror tales: The return! The present seems bright and fairly comprehensible; the past, especially the events of childhood when one sees good and evil in sharp contrast to each other, seems fuzzy, dark, half-forgotten and perhaps a bit frightening. The idea of a murky, terrifying past returning, repeating itself and trying to take control of the present is particularly disturbing.

"Night" makes effective use of this idea right from its opening presentation of a horrific incident from Bruce Wayne's childhood, an incident particularly replete with the allegorical overtones that would impress upon a child's subconscious. The gunmen become wild anarchical forces, turning their surroundings into chaos, usurping property, destroying the silence around them with their shots, threatening to kill bystanders and, in the process, tear apart a father and son. Most important, their actions severely wound a child's psyche.

The Shadow aptly fills the role of a mysterious, vengeful Fate, violently correcting the imbalance wreaked in the moral order. As time passes, **The Shadow** and Stamper, the chief criminal, pass from view, but the forces of good and evil remain taking new forms. Wayne himself embodies the good while his parent's murder becomes the evil. Yet the great figures of the old days have not vanished. They eerily live on, hidden from view but somehow retaining their youthful energy, as if their work is not yet done. Stamper literally builds up his energies during the intervening years for a new assault on society. **The Shadow's** task is to help the new representative of the forces of moral stability, **The Batman**, meet Stamper's challenge. Though **Batman** can defeat the evils he perceives as an adult, he cannot yet cope with the buried fears left over from his childhood

As if directed by fate, the past swiftly swirls around **The Batman**, apparently from nowhere. It begins with Gordon's chance (?) question about guns and **Batman's** hesitant response hints that his dislike of firearms is not simply a matter of moral scruples, but a matter of irrational fear as well. (It is good to see some psychological depth for once given to a superhero's typical but risky refusal to carry guns.)

Quickly thereafter, the past reappears, bit by bit. First, there is the theft of the tiara, then the return of Swofford and the nurse, now aged and ghostly, and finally, the return of Stamper, strangely youthful and strong as ever. Rather, he is stronger, for this time he succeeds in causing death where before he failed, and the death of Swofford recalls that of Thomas and Martha Wayne as depicted earlier in the story. **The Batman** is in the same position he was in as a child, standing helplessly by as someone dies. The elevator trap again almost reduces **Batman** to childish helplessness, confronted as he is with the juvenile fears of falling and being trapped in an enclosed place.

The scene of the final battle, the abandoned jewelry store, caps the imagery: the bright shiny place of childhood experience has become a dark, dingy, forgotten home of fear, like a twisted section of the subconscious. Where once there were living people, there are now only unmoving manikins, as inactive as their now aged and dead counterparts would be. The dummies are non-entities, just as the bystanders years before were in terms of the greater drama of the confrontation of good and evil, **Shadow** and Stamper.

The Shadow now returns, appearing at first like a godlike voice out of nowhere, hinting at retribution and the knowledge of the workings of fate. At first, **The Batman's** attack of uncontrollable fear during the final fight seems inexplicable in such a strong-minded man, but under close examination, one can see how each event in the story brought that fear closer to the surface until it finally erupted.

But at that point, the story launches into its second theme, that of the process of achieving maturity. When he rescued Bruce and his father from that nightmare of destruction, **The Shadow** made as powerful an impression on Wayne's mind as the gunfire had. When violence re-entered his life with the death of his parents, Bruce Wayne immediately thought back to **The Shadow**, his father's savior of another time, and ultimately determined to become a crimefighter like **The Shadow** in order to avenge his parents' deaths and prevent crimes in the future

Oddly enough, Thomas Wayne's death set Bruce free to follow the path of the second father figure he had adopted. He would grow up to be both a respectable rich man like Wayne and a crimefighter like **The Shadow**. In their meeting last year, **The Batman** and **The Shadow** were merely two superheroes from different generations, affirming the link between the pulps and the comics by their handshake. In "Night" there is an inescapable sense of a father-son relationship between them.

The Shadow's laugh when **Batman** is paralyzed with fear breaks Stamper's spell just as the memory of **The Shadow's** example enabled Wayne to go on, determined to right wrongs. **The Shadow** first inspired Bruce to resist his childhood psychic wounds by fighting against evil forces like those which caused them. Now he leads him to obliterate those wounds by inspiring Bruce to defeat their original source.

By defeating Stamper, **The Batman** proves himself Stamper's superior, and true heir to Stamper's former master, **The Shadow**. The monster of Bruce's youth proved to be a vulnerable human after all and with that ancient evil finally laid to rest, **The Shadow** can retire from the scene. But he does not do so without having an intriguing conversation with **Batman**, full of a sense of a stern but-kind parent and an admiring son trying to communicate but finding themselves at cross-purposes. **The Shadow's** eyes are concealed from our view as he praises **Batman** for justifying his faith. Perhaps he is trying to conceal his emotions, but certainly, he leaves before the conversation can turn from crimefighter's shop talk to **The Batman's** expression of gratitude.

To sum up, this story was in many ways the best **Batman** tale in a long, long time, achieving psychological depth and relevance not by twisting comics conversations into heavy-handed think pieces, but by building upon and developing the mythic import in the concept of superhero and mystery stories.

PETER SANDERSON, Milton, Mass.

(Normally, it would be impossible for us to print a letter as long as this one, Peter, but the fact that it was so well-written, coupled with our changeover to monthly publication, gave us the opportunity to share your views with the rest of our readers. And while we wait till next issue for your comments on BATMAN #260, let's take a look at some BAT-EXTRAS!—BR)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

It's rather obvious that the character and appearance of **Batman** has changed quite a bit since he first appeared in **DETECTIVE #27** in 1939. His costume back then was different from the one he wears now, although the basics of the outfit remain unchanged over the 35 years.

With his early costume, for example, the mask was slightly different and his cape could form two "wings" though he could not fly with them. Then, in the forties, the costume became much what it is today. In 1939, he wore only regular gloves; in the forties, the fringes appeared on them.

Then, in 1964, came the "New Look" **Batman**. The bat-emblem on his chest got the bat-signal circle around it, Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson let their hair grow a bit and some minor modifications were made in the equipment.

But, most recently, even more changes were made. Bruce and Dick grew even longer hair, the Batcave looks nothing like it used to, the **Batmobile** became a blue sportscar and **Batman** began to threaten crooks. Even the Bat-signal changed, both on the chest and in the sky. And **Batman's** ears have become quite long, like they were originally.

Now we come to the question of **Robin**. The readers seem to have some idea that he should be dropped completely. This is purely insane! Some of the newer readers of **Batman** who are not familiar with **Robin** have taken a disliking to him and want him dropped, not even realizing that he has been an active part of the **Batman** legend since **DETECTIVE COMICS #38** in 1940. That's 34 years and it's too long to just drop a character and forget about him. As for the older readers who want the **Teen Wonder** dropped . . . think about it, guys. What would it be like without **Robin?** That's one change in **Batman** that goes a bit too far!

Robin has been a part of **Batman** for too long. If you want to get rid of him, you might as well get rid of Batman too!

KENNY BLACK, Oak Park, Ill.

(It's interesting to note, Kenny, that both you and Peter, above, mention in your letters that you don't expect them to be printed because they are not typical of the LOC's we usually publish! Readers, take note: These are the types of letters—though not quite this long—that we would like to publish, if we got more of them! Don't write a typical letter, write an atypical one!—BR)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I was sitting in my insurance class and I thought of something so dumb that it was probably never asked, even back in the good old days when every letter to the **BatCave** was something like, "Will Dick Grayson ever ask Kathy Kane's niece for a date?" or "How come **Robin's** utility belt doesn't have vials like Batman's?"

To continue the grand tradition of dumb questions, I find myself obligated to ask this question of national importance: What would happen if **The Batman** were chasing a crook and another crook came from behind and stepped on his cape? Would the cape come off automatically or does our hero gag?

GREG COBEN, New Brunswick, N.J.

(To continue the grand tradition of ANSWERING those dumb questions, Greg, we reply—and our predecessors would be proud—"Do you have x-ray eyes? Have you peeked into our story vault? The answer to your question will appear in a PRIVATE LIFE OF CLARK KENT story titled 'Bogus Batman' appearing in SUPERMAN #287!"—Bob Rozakis)

BAT-BIBLIOGRAPHY: "The Round-Robin Death Threats" and "Where There's a Will—There's a Slay" appeared in DETECTIVE COMICS, issues 366-367 (Aug. and Sept., 1967), respectively.

HERE IT IS...

A TRIVIA QUIZ GUARANTEED TO DRIVE YOU...

BATS!

1

COMMISSIONER GORDON FREQUENTLY CONTACTS THE BATMAN WITH THE BAT-SIGNAL! WHERE IS THIS DEVICE LOCATED?

A) ATOP THE GOTHAM STATE BUILDING

B) IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

C) ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS

D) IN BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT

2

YEARS AGO, THE BATMAN WAS FREQUENTLY AIDED BY A CIRCUS PERFORMER WHO BECAME THE BATWOMAN. WHAT WAS HER REAL NAME?

A) VICKI VALE

B) KATHY KANE

C) SELINA KYLE

D) BARBARA GORDON

3

JUST AS SUPERMAN WAS PESTERED BY MR. MXYZPTLK, BATMAN WAS OFTEN VISITED BY AN IMP FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

A) BAT-MITE

B) BAT-IMP

C) MR. BATZPTLK

D) THE BAT-GENIE

4

BAT-HOUND WAS THE PET OF A FRIEND OF BRUCE WAYNE'S WHO DONNED A MASK AND HELPED THE DYNAMIC DUO. WHAT WAS BAT-HOUND'S "SECRET IDENTITY"?

A) REX

B) STREAK

C) KRYPTO

D) ACE

N-274

5

YEARS BEFORE THE CURRENT **BATGIRL** MADE HER DEBUT, THERE WAS ANOTHER **BATGIRL**. WHAT WAS THE TITLE OF THE STORY IN WHICH SHE FIRST APPEARED?

A) "THE MILLION-DOLLAR DEBUT OF **BATGIRL**"

B) "**BAT-GIRL**"

C) "HERE COMES THE **BATGIRL**"

D) "I WANTED TO JOIN THE LITTLE LEAGUE, BUT THEY'D ONLY LET ME BE THE **BATGIRL**"

6

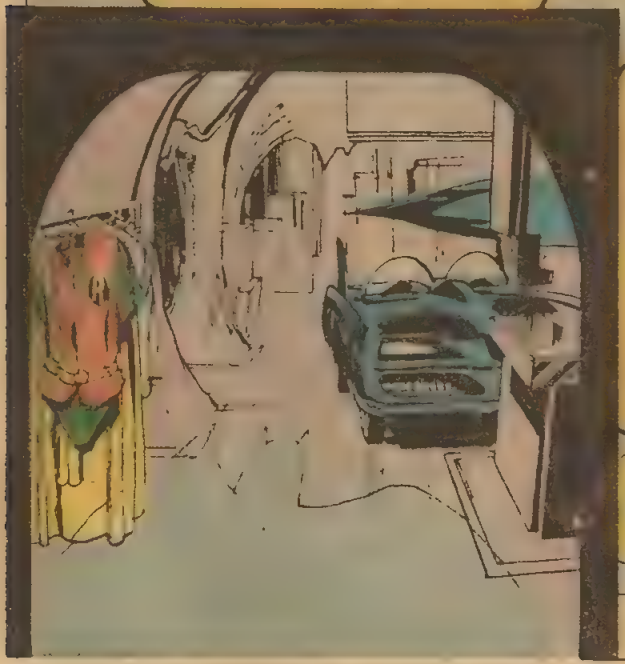
BRUCE WAYNE DISCOVERED THE **BAT-CAVE**

A) BENEATH **WAYNE MANOR**.

B) IN A COVE OFF **GOTHAM BAY**.

C) UNDER POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

D) DOWN BY THE OLD MILL STREAM.



7

ORIGINALLY, BRUCE AND DICK WENT TO THE **BAT CAVE**

A) DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS BEHIND A GRANDFATHER CLOCK.

B) IN AN ELEVATOR BEHIND THE CLOSET.

C) DOWN THE BAT-POLES BEHIND THE MOVING WALL.

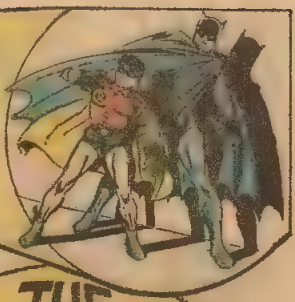
D) IN A TAXICAB.

B-B-B-Bat's All, Folks!

THE ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 47

DOWN MEMORY LANE with BATMAN & ROBIN

A MEMORABLE TWO-PART TALE CULLED FROM THE FILES OF THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE!



BATMAN

With ROBIN The Boy Wonder

THE ROUND-ROBIN DEATH THREATS

THE SNITCHING ON OF A RADIO...

THE RINGING OF A DOOR-BELL--THE DIALING OF A TELEPHONE!

COMMONPLACE ACTIONS THAT SEEM HARMLESS ENOUGH, BUT PROVE TO BE MURDER METHODS OF A MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND!

HERE IS A BATMAN THRILLER IN THE "GRAND OLD" TRADITION!

I'M TRYING TO STRETCH THIS FIGHT OUT--

DON'T WANT TO CAPTURE THESE CROOKS TOO QUICKLY!

BUT I'M BEING FORCED TO FIGHT FASTER--AND FASTER!

STORY BY GARDNER FOX

ART BY CARMINE INFANTINO & SID GREENE

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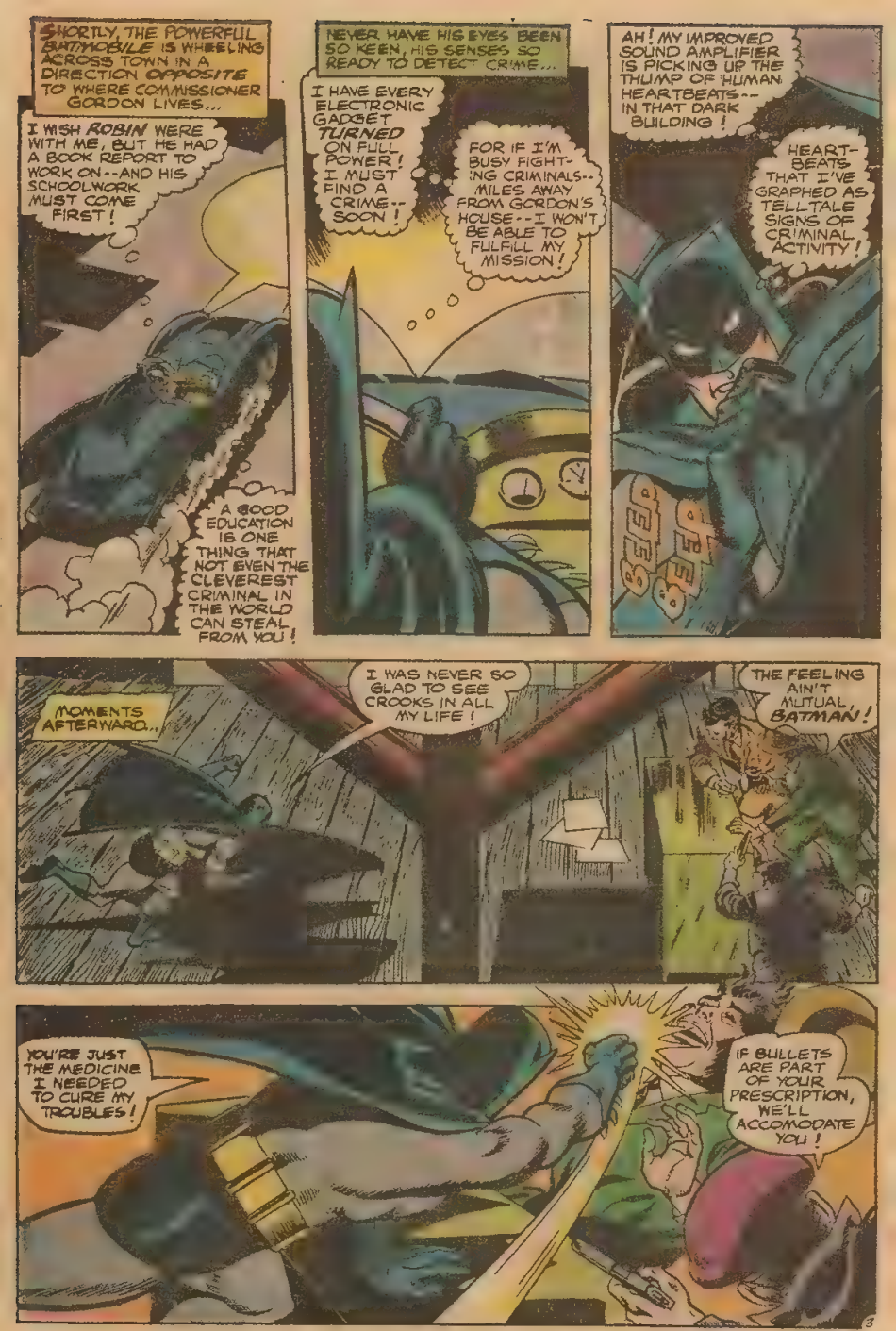
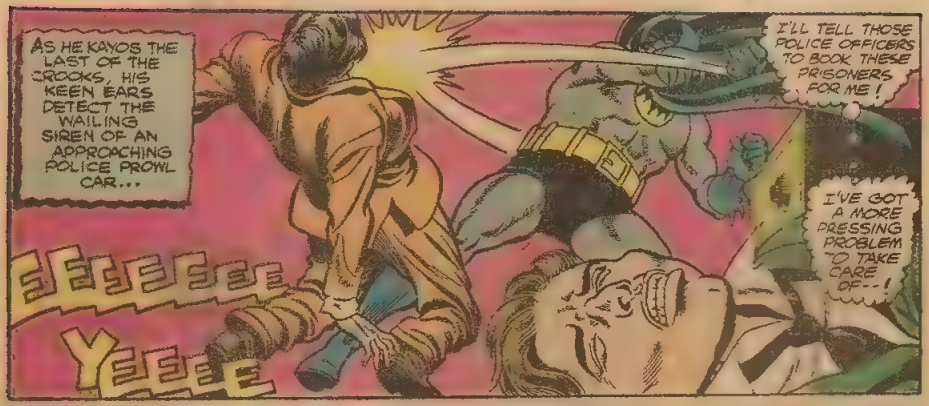
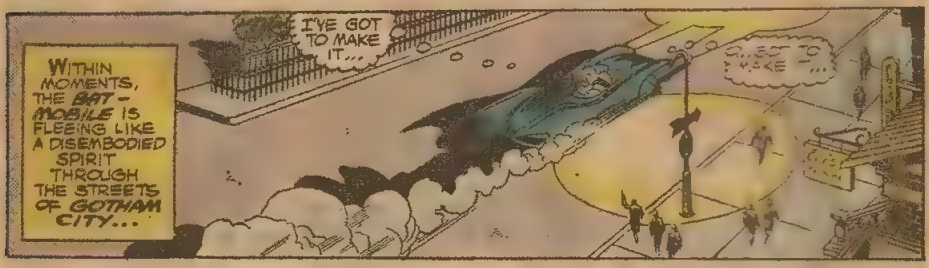
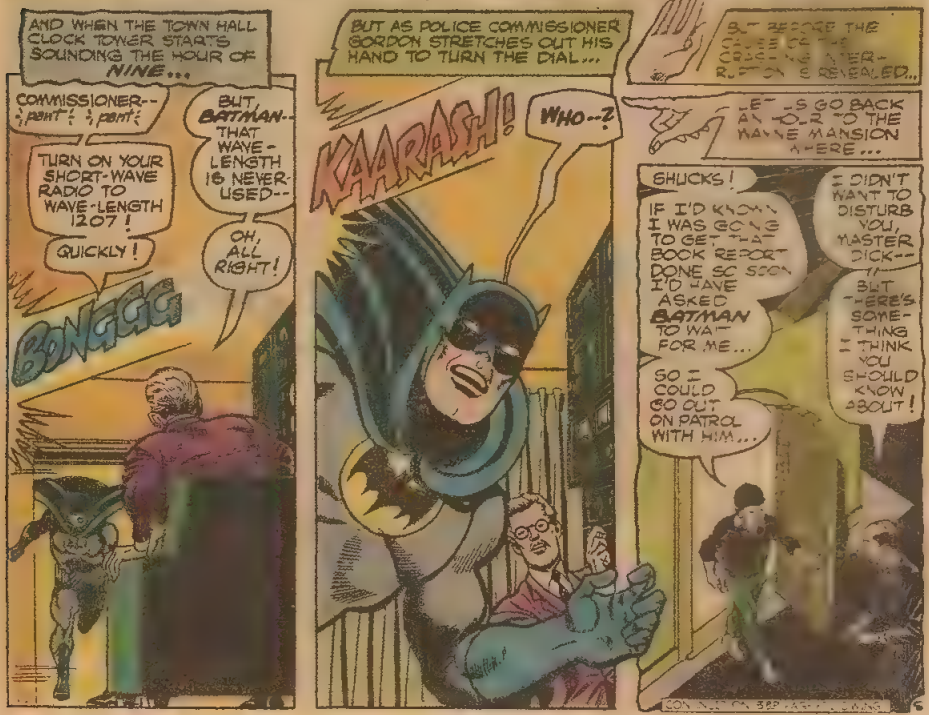
IT IS EARLY EVENING IN WAYNE MANSION--WHEN ALFRED THE BUTLER APPROACHES BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE IN HIS STUDY...
A SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER FOR YOU, SIR.
IT JUST ARRIVED!
THANKS, ALFRED.
AS HE READS THE CONTENTS, BRUCE WAYNE'S FACE GROWS HARD AS MARBLE...
INCREDIBLE!
SCARCELY HAS HE FINISHED THE LETTER THAN...
IT--BURST INTO FLAMES!
THOSE FLAMES RELEASED SOME GAS--
I COULDN'T HELP BREATHING IN!
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH A THING, SIR?
A FORM OF--INSTANTANEOUS COMBUSTION! EVIDENTLY THE BODY HEAT OF MY FINGERS, AS I HELD THE LETTER TRIGGERED A CHEMICAL REACTION OF THE FLUIDS WITH WHICH THE PAPER WAS DOUSED!
ALFRED, I MUST TELL YOU THE LETTER'S CONTENTS--
I'VE GOT TO--TO CONVINCE MYSELF THIS WASN'T THE WORK OF A CRANK!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR?
I'M TRYING TO TELL ALFRED--BUT I CAN'T! THE LETTER COMMANDED ME NOT TO INFORM ANYONE OF ITS CONTENTS--AND THE GAS IS MAKING ME OBEY!
AS HE CROSSES FOR HIS NIGHTLY PATROL, THOUGHTS RUN RIOT IN THE MIND OF THE CAPED CRUSADER...
THE LETTER DIRECTED ME TO BE AT COMMISSIONER GORDON'S HOUSE AT NINE O'CLOCK--AND TELL HIM TO TURN ON HIS SHORT-WAVE RADIO SET AT WAVEBAND 1207!
IT SEEMS LIKE A HARMLESS COMMAND--BUT I HAVE A STRONG FEELING SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN IF I FOLLOW THIS THROUGH!


SHORTLY, THE POWERFUL BATMOBILE IS WHEELING ACROSS TOWN IN A DIRECTION OPPOSITE TO WHERE COMMISSIONER GORDON LIVES...
I WISH ROBIN WERE WITH ME, BUT HE HAD A BOOK REPORT TO WORK ON--AND HIS SCHOOLWORK MUST COME FIRST!
A GOOD EDUCATION IS ONE THING THAT NOT EVEN THE CLEVEREST CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD CAN STEAL FROM YOU!
NEVER HAVE HIS EYES BEEN SO KEEN, HIS SENSES SO READY TO DETECT CRIME...
I HAVE EVERY ELECTRONIC GADGET TURNED ON FULL POWER! I MUST FIND A CRIME--SOON!
FOR IF I'M BUSY FIGHTING CRIMINALS--MILES AWAY FROM GORDON'S HOUSE--I WON'T BE ABLE TO FULFILL MY MISSION!
AH! MY IMPROVED SOUND AMPLIFIER IS PICKING UP THE THUMP OF HUMAN HEARTBEATS--IN THAT DARK BUILDING!
HEARTBEATS THAT I'VE GRAPHED AS TELLTALE SIGNS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY!
BEEP BEEP
MOMENTS AFTERWARD...
I WAS NEVER SO GLAD TO SEE CROOKS IN ALL MY LIFE!
THE FEELING AIN'T MUTUAL, BATMAN!
YOU'RE JUST THE MEDICINE I NEEDED TO CURE MY TROUBLES!
IF BULLETS ARE PART OF YOUR PRESCRIPTION, WE'LL ACCOMODATE YOU!

I'VE GOT TO STRETCH THIS FIGHT OUT--
DON'T WANT TO CAPTURE "E" TOO QUICKLY!
PULLED THAT PUNCH A BIT SO I COULD "CARRY" HIM A FEW MORE ROUNDS!
I'LL THROW IN A LITTLE WRESTLING HERE--
THAT'LL EAT UP TIME!
THEN--AS HE TURNS HIS HEAD TO AVOID A BLOW...
QUARTER TO NINE!
GOOD--THERE'S HARDLY ENOUGH TIME TO GET OVER TO GORDON'S--
EVEN IF I WANTED TO!
SUDDENLY, A CHANGE COMES OVER THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER!
FROM A CASUAL CRIME-FIGHTER HE ERUPTS INTO A FRANTIC FOE OF EVILDOERS...
I'M FIGHTING--FASTER--AND FASTER--
--AS IF I WERE IN A RACE AGAINST TIME!


AS HE KAYOS THE LAST OF THE CROOKS, HIS KEEN EARS DETECT THE WAILING SIREN OF AN APPROACHING POLICE PROWL CAR...
I'LL TELL THOSE POLICE OFFICERS TO BOOK THESE PRISONERS FOR ME!
I'VE GOT A MORE PRESSING PROBLEM TO TAKE CARE OF--!
EEEEEEEEE
YEEEEE


WITHIN MOMENTS, THE BAT-MOBILE IS FLEEING LIKE A DISEMBODIED SPIRIT THROUGH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY...
I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT...


AND WHEN THE TOWN HALL CLOCK TOWER STARTS SOUNDING THE HOUR OF NINE...
COMMISSIONER-- PSST! PSST!
TURN ON YOUR SHORT-WAVE RADIO TO WAVE-LENGTH 1207!
QUICKLY!
BONGGG
BUT BATMAN-- THAT WAVE-LENGTH IS NEVER USED--
OH, ALL RIGHT!
BUT AS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON STRETCHES OUT HIS HAND TO TURN THE DIAL...
KAARASH!
WHO--?
BUT BEFORE THE SECRET OF THE COMMISSIONER'S INTERRUPTION IS REVEALED...
LET'S GO BACK AN HOUR TO THE WAYNE MANSION WHERE...
SHUCKS!
IF I'D KNOWN I WAS GOING TO GET THAT BOOK REPORT DONE SO SOON I'D HAVE ASKED BATMAN TO WAIT FOR ME...
SO I COULD GO OUT ON PATROL WITH HIM...
I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU, MASTER DICK--
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

KARATE

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- Learn all the vulnerable areas of the body—so that you can demolish anybody!
- Destroy any attacker with Super Self-Defense Techniques!
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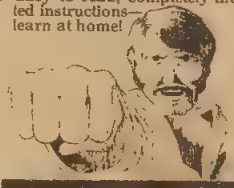

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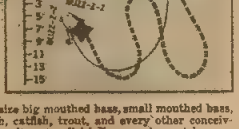
OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

"Action" Fish Lure Swims By Its Own Power!

Completely under its own power, ACTION LURE swims and dives like a live darting minnow, then returns to the surface to dive again and again, even on a slack line! As amazing ACTION LURE dives down deep to where the big ones are lurking, fish see its free swimming action, hear its buzzing sound, and bite savagely utterly without fear or hesitation!



No wagging, no pulling!

ACTION LURE swims by itself without being pulled. It swims various depths down to 15 feet, for up to one hour or more, with a slow, erratic maimed-minnow motion that no fresh or salt water fish can resist, all the time sending out its enticing buzzing insect sound to attract fish from yards away!

Yes, ACTION LURE hauls in trophy size big mouthed bass, small mouthed bass, pike, pickerel, perch, walleye, dogfish, catfish, trout, and every other conceivable type of pan fish, game fish, and salt water fish! Eye-popping catches are reported from every section of the country, so we say *"Prove it to yourself!"* Use ACTION LURE for a full month, see for yourself how you catch more fish, bigger fish, how your friends insist on learning your amazing fishing secret.

Works like magic even when other lures and bait fail completely!

You'll haul in limit catches when others aren't even getting a nibble, in lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, wherever you fish! Just picture your self-propelled ACTION LURE slashing through the water in brilliant reds, whites & yellows, only 5" long yet carrying enough fuel to cut through the water for as much as one full hour with a single load! Plunging down to fifteen foot depths, rising again to the surface almost once every minute, ACTION LURE plows through the water tirelessly, pulling in the big ones from hundreds of yards around you!

Here's how ACTION LURE works: All you do is snap open the fuel chamber, drop in two pellets of fuel, and close the fuel chamber again. Takes less than 60 seconds; you don't even dirty your hands! And then . . . simply cast or lower ACTION LURE into fresh or salt water, *and get set for the fishing thrill of your life!*

ACTION LURE GUARANTEE

ACTION LURE is guaranteed to catch more fish and bigger fish in every kind of water, in every kind of weather. If you are not completely satisfied in every respect, return ACTION LURE within 30 days for complete refund.

For perhaps one minute ACTION LURE will float quietly; then, as water reaches the fuel, your lure will seem to shudder for a second, then spring dramatically to "life" Making the buzzing sound of a dying bee, ACTION LURE will point its nose downward, and begin its first descent! Slowly, jerkily like a maimed minnow, it will swim noisily downward, buzzing and humming, traveling about nine feet every fifteen seconds! If no fish interests it its descent automatically stops, it slowly raises up its nose and climbs to the surface again!

And again! And again! Tirelessly, hour after hour, far beyond the reach of your own casts! Roaming restlessly over every foot of water beneath you — even on slack line — even when your boat is tied up — *even when you're curled upon the dock, sound asleep!* And all the while ACTION LURE is swimming and buzzing and driving the fish around you to such a frenzy they practically tear the rod out of your hands!

Why is [illegible]

No wonder this revolutionary ACTION LURE took six full years to develop! Here's what ACTION LURE will do for YOU! . . .

It frees you forever from the filthy tasks of digging for worms & crawlers, catching frogs, or paying 50c to $1 for a bucket of minnows that die on you before you can even get them into your boat! It frees you forever from paying $3, $4, or even $5 for those fancy "Dead-as-a-Dodo" lures that only work when you tow them!

Tomorrow, for the first time in your life, you'll be weighing down your boat with bass, trout, pike, pickerel, perch [illegible] catches of pan fish, game fish, fresh and salt water fish, wherever you can drop a line! You'll fish better — novice or pro — sound asleep at the bottom of your boat, than most fishermen sweating and casting till their arms ache from exhaustion!

And you'll have the time of your life, amazing your friends and family with your hauls, and seeing your fishermen friend's eyes pop as they watch your incredible self-propelled ACTION LURE at work!

Try one full month at our expense!

You have nothing to lose! Fish with ACTION LURE for one full month entirely at our risk! Cost is only $2.98. You receive ACTION LURE plus enough fuel to last up to a full year, together with complete instructions. Four "alluring" colors: red, green, orange, yellow. Order all four for only $9.98; you get four times as much fuel, and you save $2.00.

For the fishing thrill of your life, order direct from:

ACTION LURE, DEPT. 1079, U.S. P.O.BOX 69440 LOS ANGELES, CA 90069

MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY!

ACTION LURE, DEPT. 1079
U.S. P.O.BOX 69440, LOS ANGELES, CA 90069

Please send me ACTION LURES as checked below; it is clearly understood I must be completely satisfied in every respect or I may return ACTION LURES within 30 days for complete refund.

- ☐ 1 ACTION LURE with full year's supply of fuel, $2.98.
- ☐ 2 ACTION LURES, each a different color, each with full year's supply of fuel $5.50. *(Save 46c)*
- ☐ 4 ACTION LURES, each a different color, each with full year's supply of fuel, $9.98. *(Save $1.94)*

Get Limit Catches, Order Extra Fuel Pellets

- ☐ 1 pack (50 pellets) only $1.00.
- ☐ 2 packs (100 pellets) only $1.75. *(Save 25c!)*
- ☐ 6 packs (300 pellets) only $4.98. *(Save $1.02!)*

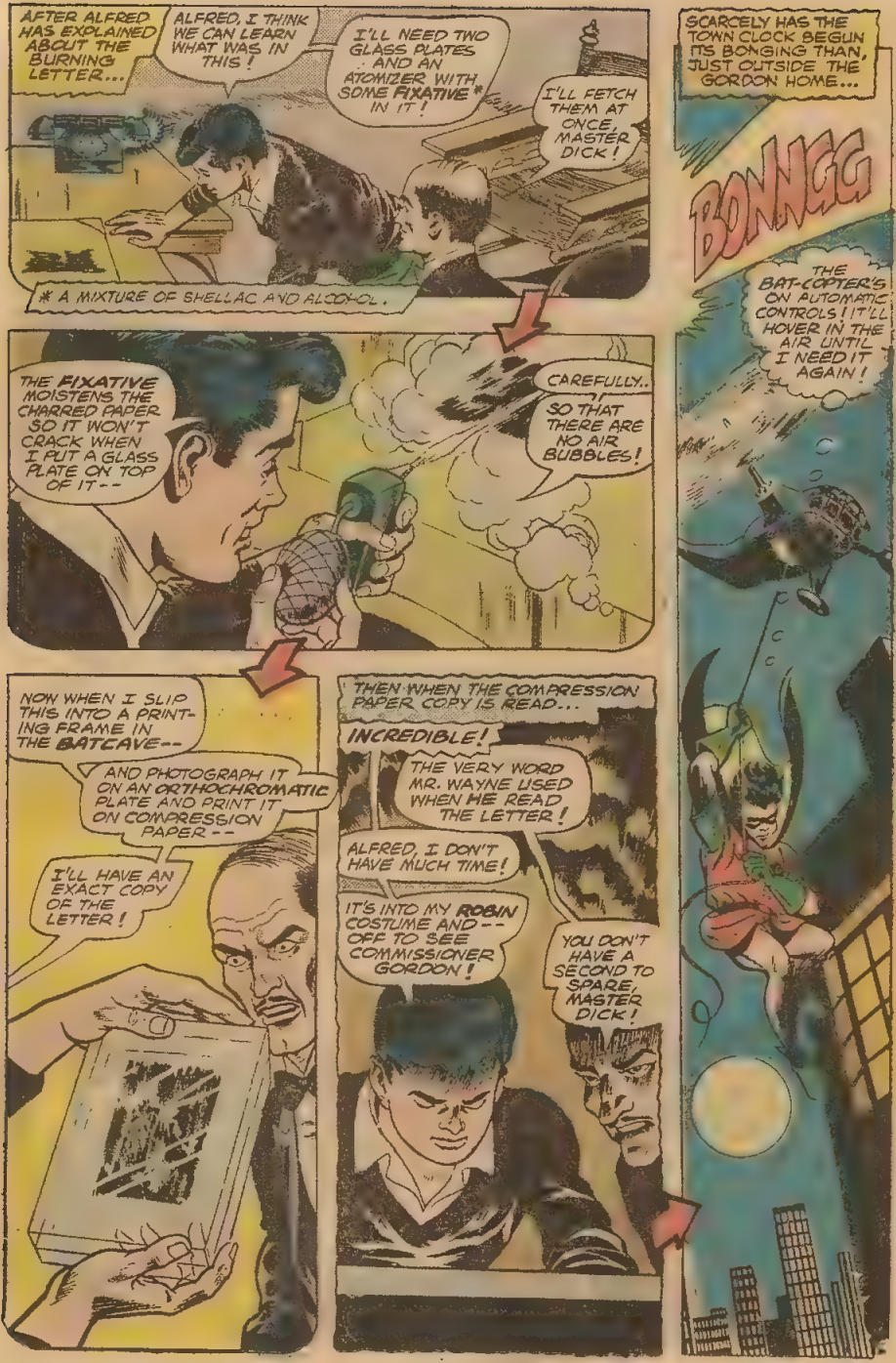
☐ $_____ Payment enclosed: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O.

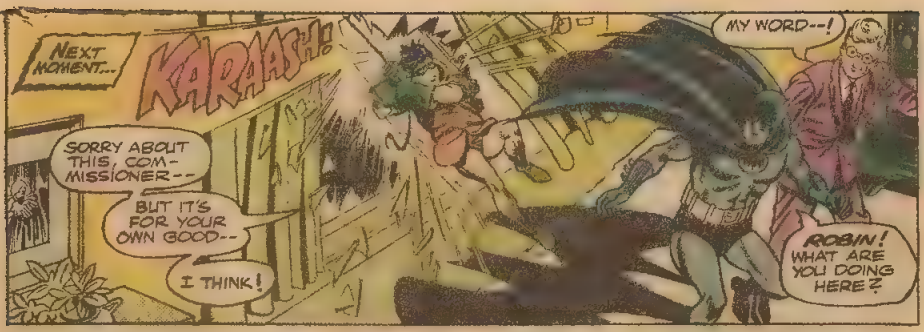
COD OK: I enclose $1.00 deposit for each ACTION LURE ordered; I agree to pay balance plus COD & postal charges.

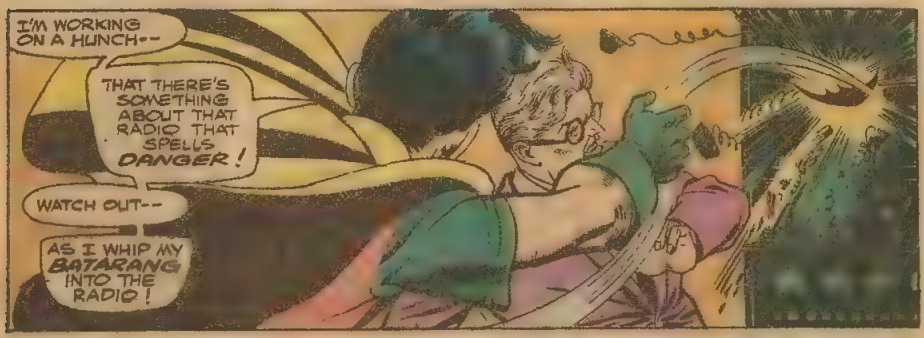
Name_____

Address_____

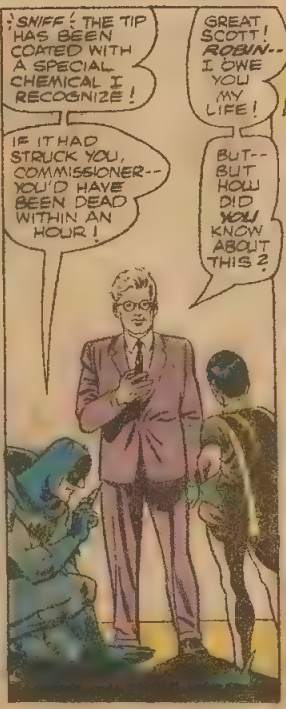
City_____ State and Zip_____

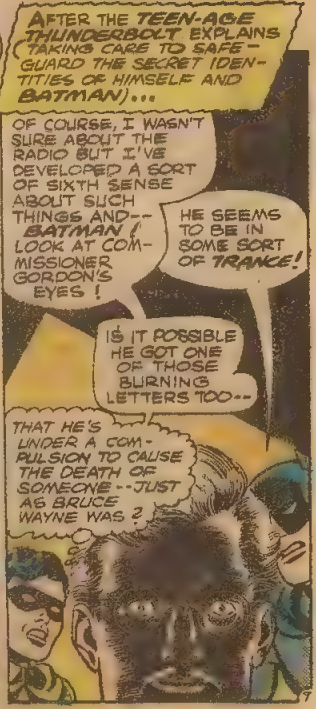

AFTER ALFRED HAS EXPLAINED ABOUT THE BURNING LETTER...
ALFRED, I THINK WE CAN LEARN WHAT WAS IN THIS!
I'LL NEED TWO GLASS PLATES AND AN ATOMIZER WITH SOME FIXATIVE* IN IT!
I'LL FETCH THEM AT ONCE, MASTER DICK!
* A MIXTURE OF SHELLAC AND ALCOHOL.
THE FIXATIVE MOISTENS THE CHARRED PAPER SO IT WON'T CRACK WHEN I PUT A GLASS PLATE ON TOP OF IT--
CAREFULLY..
SO THAT THERE ARE NO AIR BUBBLES!
NOW WHEN I SLIP THIS INTO A PRINTING FRAME IN THE BATCAVE--
AND PHOTOGRAPH IT ON AN ORTHOCHROMATIC PLATE AND PRINT IT ON COMPRESSION PAPER--
I'LL HAVE AN EXACT COPY OF THE LETTER!
THEN WHEN THE COMPRESSION PAPER COPY IS READ...
INCREDIBLE!
THE VERY WORD MR. WAYNE USED WHEN HE READ THE LETTER!
ALFRED, I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
IT'S INTO MY ROBIN COSTUME AND--OFF TO SEE COMMISSIONER GORDON!
YOU DON'T HAVE A SECOND TO SPARE, MASTER DICK!
SCARCELY HAS THE TOWN CLOCK BEGUN ITS BONGING THAN, JUST OUTSIDE THE GORDON HOME...
BONNGG
THE BAT-COPTER'S ON AUTOMATIC CONTROLS! IT'LL HOVER IN THE AIR UNTIL I NEED IT AGAIN!

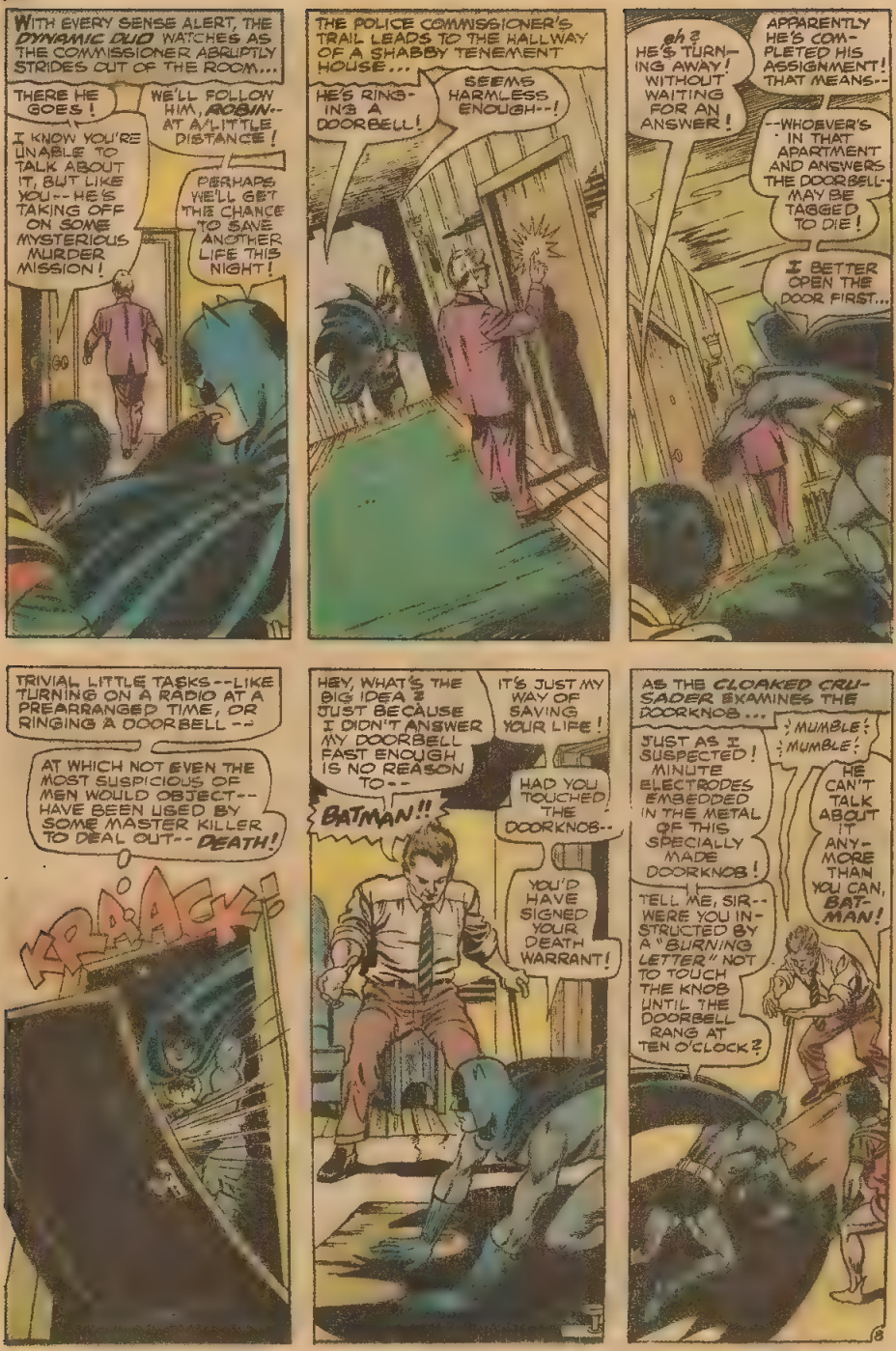

NEXT MOMENT...
KARAAK!
SORRY ABOUT THIS, COMMISSIONER--
BUT IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD--
I THINK!
MY WORD--!
ROBIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


I'M WORKING ON A HUNCH--
THAT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT RADIO THAT SPELLS DANGER!
WATCH OUT--
AS I WHIP MY BATARANG INTO THE RADIO!

WHEN YOUR BATARANG HIT THE DIAL THE COMMISSIONER WAS ABOUT TO TURN--
IT CAUSED A CONCEALED MECHANISM TO RELEASE A DART!


;SNIFF; THE TIP HAS BEEN COATED WITH A SPECIAL CHEMICAL I RECOGNIZE!
IF IT HAD STRUCK YOU, COMMISSIONER--YOU'D HAVE BEEN DEAD WITHIN AN HOUR!
GREAT SCOTT! ROBIN--I OWE YOU MY LIFE!
BUT--BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?


AFTER THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT EXPLAINS (TAKING CARE TO SAFE-GUARD THE SECRET IDENTITIES OF HIMSELF AND BATMAN)...
OF COURSE, I WASN'T SURE ABOUT THE RADIO BUT I'VE DEVELOPED A SORT OF SIXTH SENSE ABOUT SUCH THINGS AND--BATMAN! LOOK AT COMMISSIONER GORDON'S EYES!
HE SEEMS TO BE IN SOME SORT OF TRANCE!
IS IT POSSIBLE HE GOT ONE OF THOSE BURNING LETTERS TOO--
THAT HE'S UNDER A COMPULSION TO CAUSE THE DEATH OF SOMEONE--JUST AS BRUCE WAYNE WAS?


WITH EVERY SENSE ALERT, THE DYNAMIC DUO WATCHES AS THE COMMISSIONER ABRUPTLY STRIDES OUT OF THE ROOM...
THERE HE GOES!
WE'LL FOLLOW HIM, ROBIN--AT A LITTLE DISTANCE!
I KNOW YOU'RE UNABLE TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT LIKE YOU--HE'S TAKING OFF ON SOME MYSTERIOUS MURDER MISSION!
PERHAPS WE'LL GET THE CHANCE TO SAVE ANOTHER LIFE THIS NIGHT!
THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S TRAIL LEADS TO THE HALLWAY OF A SHABBY TENEMENT HOUSE...
HE'S RINGING A DOORBELL!
SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH--!
OH? HE'S TURNING AWAY! WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER!
APPARENTLY HE'S COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT! THAT MEANS--
--WHOEVER'S IN THAT APARTMENT AND ANSWERS THE DOORBELL MAY BE TAGGED TO DIE!
I BETTER OPEN THE DOOR FIRST...
TRIVIAL LITTLE TASKS--LIKE TURNING ON A RADIO AT A PREARRANGED TIME, OR RINGING A DOORBELL--
AT WHICH NOT EVEN THE MOST SUSPICIOUS OF MEN WOULD OBJECT--HAVE BEEN USED BY SOME MASTER KILLER TO DEAL OUT--DEATH!
KRRACK!
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? JUST BECAUSE I DIDN'T ANSWER MY DOORBELL FAST ENOUGH IS NO REASON TO--
IT'S JUST MY WAY OF SAVING YOUR LIFE!
BATMAN!!
HAD YOU TOUCHED THE DOORKNOB--
YOU'D HAVE SIGNED YOUR DEATH WARRANT!
AS THE CLOAKED CRUSADER EXAMINES THE DOORKNOB...
:MUMBLE: :MUMBLE:
JUST AS I SUSPECTED! MINUTE ELECTRODES EMBEDDED IN THE METAL OF THIS SPECIALLY MADE DOORKNOB!
HE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE THAN YOU CAN, BATMAN!
TELL ME, SIR--WERE YOU INSTRUCTED BY A "BURNING LETTER" NOT TO TOUCH THE KNOB UNTIL THE DOORBELL RANG AT TEN O'CLOCK?

BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL ME?
I NEVER HARMED A SOUL, AS SURE AS MY NAME IS JOHN KOBLER!
JOHN KOBLER?
THAT NAME RINGS A BELL IN MY MEMORY...
I HEARD A COMMOTION HERE-- DECIDED TO RETURN--
KOBLER HAS THAT SAME GLAZED LOOK IN HIS EYES THAT YOU DID, COMMISSIONER--
HE'S STARTING TO DIAL A TELEPHONE NUMBER!
WHEN YOU SET OUT TO RING THAT DOORBELL!
IT COULD BE THE NEXT MOVE IN THIS SERIES OF PLANNED MURDERS--
AS KOBLER MAKES HIS CALL, BATMAN AND ROBIN MEMORIZE THE NUMBERS DIALED! THEN AS HE INSERTS HIS FINGER TO DIAL THE FINAL NUMBER...
THERE! I'VE PREVENTED THE CALL FROM BEING COMPLETED! THE PHONE WON'T RING AT THE OTHER END!
IT SHOULDN'T TAKE US LONG TO LEARN WHAT NUMBER HE WAS DIALING!
A PHONE CALL TO THE TELE-PHONE COMPANY BRINGS A QUICK REPLY...
THE NUMBER KOBLER WAS DIALING BELONGS TO FRED TINNEY!
THE FAMOUS SPORTS WRITER? BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD DO COMMISSIONER GORDON -- JOHN KOBLER -- AND FRED TINNEY HAVE IN COMMON?
WHEN THEY LEAVE THE TENE-MENT HOUSE...
YOU AND KOBLER ARE SAFE, COMMISSIONER! NOW ROBIN AND I HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN OF FRED TINNEY!
IF HE'S OBLIGED TO DO SOMETHING TO DOOM ANOTHER PERSON--WE BETTER BE THERE TO STOP HIM!
I'M GLAD THIS CASE IS IN GOOD HANDS, NOW! CARRY ON, BATMAN AND ROBIN!
HERE'S THE WAY THIS ADDS UP, BATMAN--
A BEHIND-THE-SCENES KILLER IS SENDING HIS VICTIMS SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO PERFORM SOME SIMPLE TASK--
LIKE TURNING ON A RADIO OR DIALING A TELEPHONE NUMBER--WHICH WILL LEAD TO THE DEATHS OF CERTAIN OTHER PEOPLE!
IT'S A--EXCUSE THE EXPRESSION--ROUND-ROBIN MURDER PLOT THAT WE MUST STOP!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

Have you seen this coupon before?

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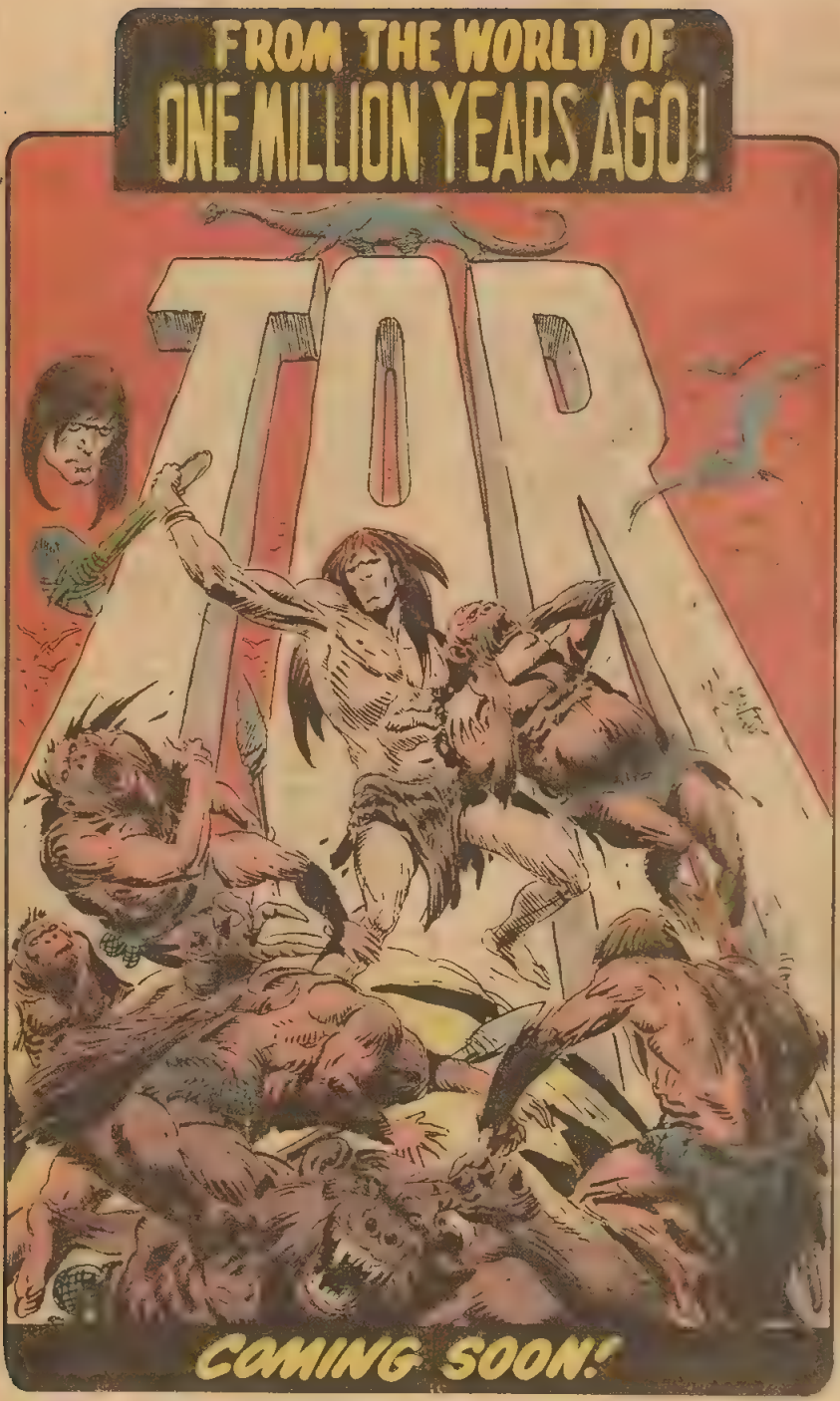
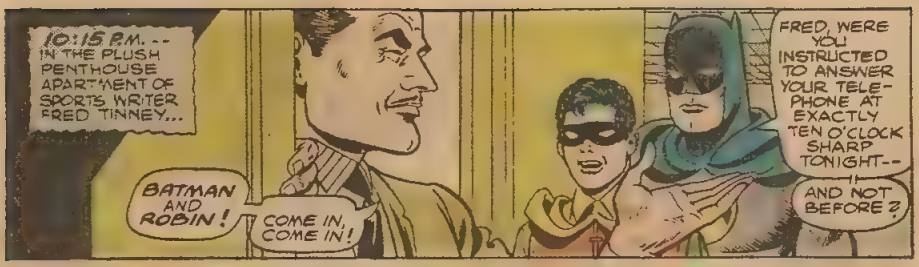
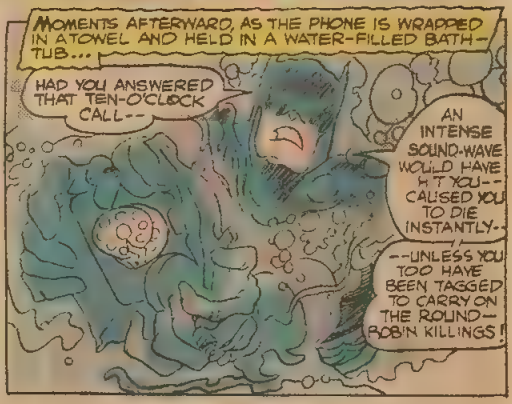
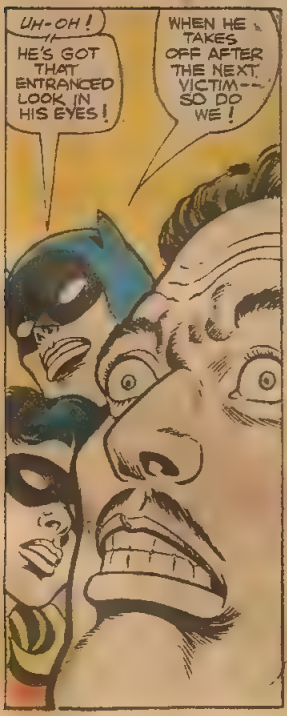

FROM THE WORLD OF
ONE MILLION YEARS AGO!
TOR
COMING SOON!


10:15 P.M. -- IN THE PLUSH PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OF SPORTS WRITER FRED TINNEY...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
COME IN, COME IN!
FRED, WERE YOU INSTRUCTED TO ANSWER YOUR TELEPHONE AT EXACTLY TEN O'CLOCK SHARP TONIGHT--
AND NOT BEFORE?

MUMBLE MUMBLE
NEVER MIND! YOU'VE GIVEN US YOUR ANSWER!
IT'S YES!


MOMENTS AFTERWARD, AS THE PHONE IS WRAPPED IN A TOWEL AND HELD IN A WATER-FILLED BATH-TUB...
HAD YOU ANSWERED THAT TEN-O'CLOCK CALL--
AN INTENSE SOUND-WAVE WOULD HAVE HIT YOU-- CAUSED YOU TO DIE INSTANTLY-
--UNLESS YOU TOO HAVE BEEN TAGGED TO CARRY ON THE ROUND-- ROBIN KILLINGS!


UH-OH!
HE'S GOT THAT ENTRANCED LOOK IN HIS EYES!
WHEN HE TAKES OFF AFTER THE NEXT VICTIM--- SO DO WE!

OUT INTO THE NIGHT STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY GOES THE SPORTS WRITER...
HE'S WALKING VERY, VERY SLOWLY! NOW THAT HE REALIZES HE MAY BE GOING TO CAUSE SOMEBODY'S DEATH--
HE MUST BE TRYING TO FIGHT OFF THE ORDERS HE GOT-- JUST AS I TRIED TO DO.

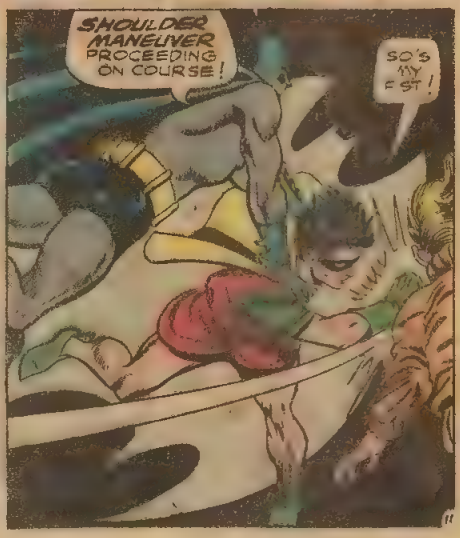
HE SUDDENLY TURNED INTO THAT JEWELRY STORE!
HE MUST KNOW THAT WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM...
WHAT'S HE UP TO?
HE WANTS US TO ARREST HIM-- PUT HIM IN A JAIL CELL WHERE HE CAN'T HARM ANYONE!

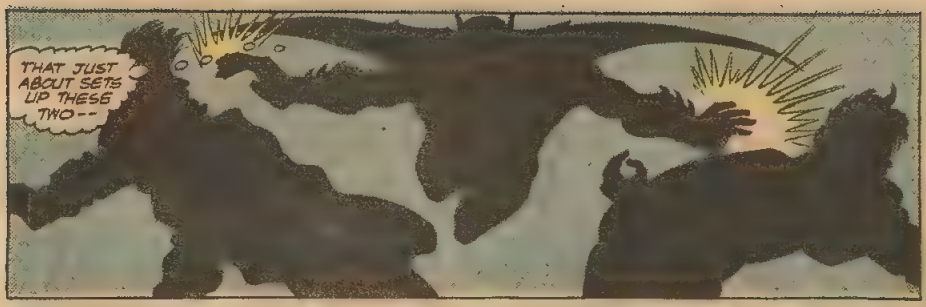
AS THE SPORTS WRITER DARTS INTO THE JEWELRY SALON...
THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED!
WHAT A BREAK!
AND--OHHH!
CROOKS HERE--ROBBING!
GET THAT GUY!

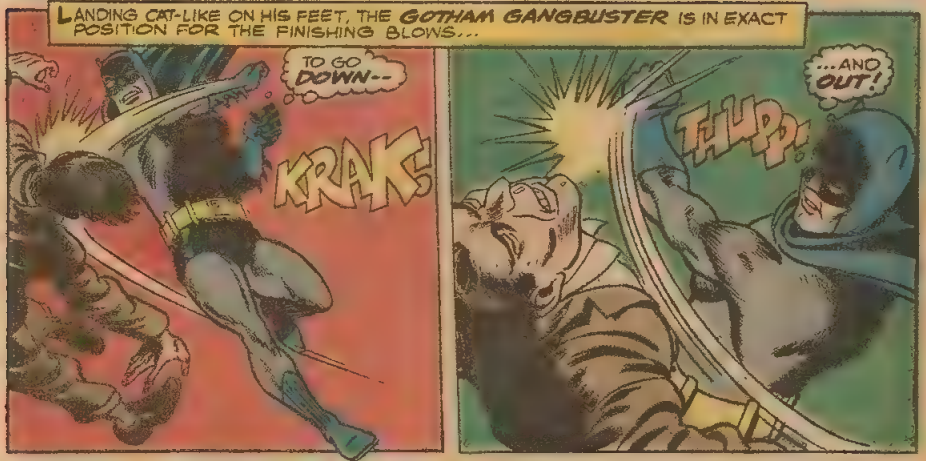
GOT HIM!

A HARD VOICE SNARLS AS...
NOW YOU'VE GOT US TO FIGHT!

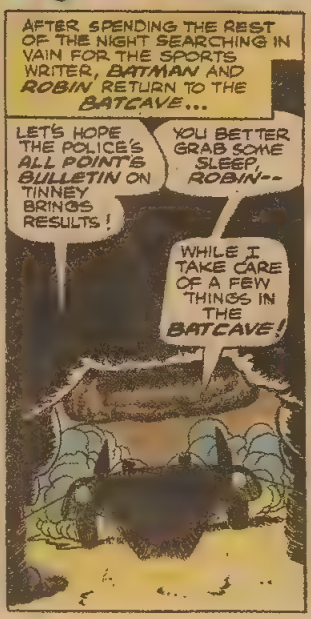
TINNEY'S IN NO CONDITION TO GO ANYWHERE!
BRACE YOURSELF FOR "SHOULDER MANEUVER" ROBIN!
WE CAN POLISH OFF THESE HOODS--AND STILL FOLLOW HIM!

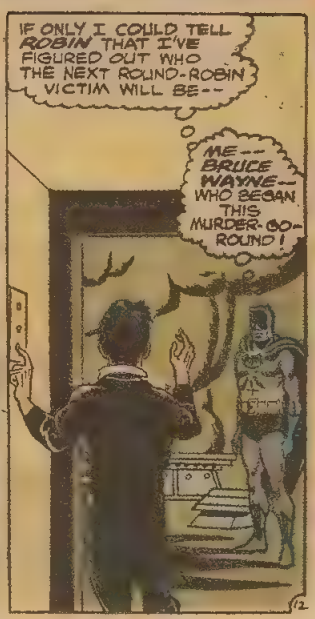

SHOULDER MANEUVER PROCEEDING ON COURSE!
SO'S MY FIST!


THAT JUST ABOUT SETS UP THESE TWO--

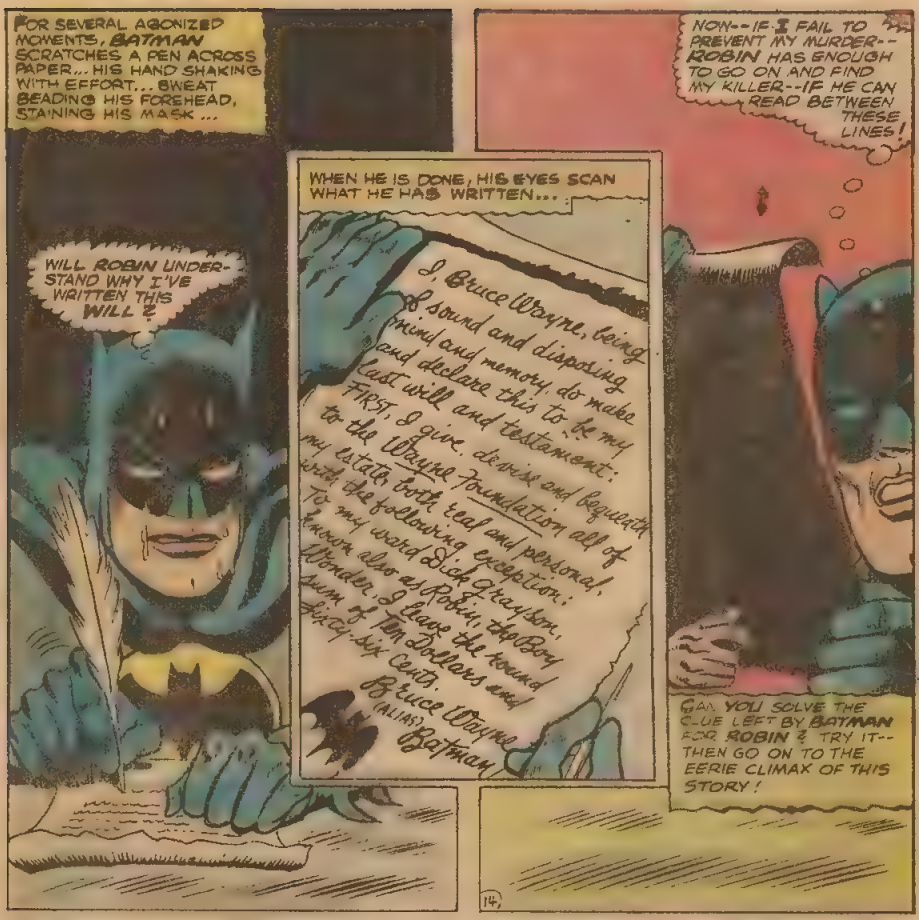

LANDING CAT-LIKE ON HIS FEET, THE GOTHAM GANGBUSTER IS IN EXACT POSITION FOR THE FINISHING BLOWS...
TO GO DOWN--
KRAK!
...AND OUT!
THUD!

AS THE LAST THUG DROPS...
BATMAN! TINNEY'S GONE! HE MUST HAVE COME TO--AND GONE ON ABOUT HIS MISSION OF DEATH!
COME ON--MAYBE WE CAN STILL FIND HIM!


AFTER SPENDING THE REST OF THE NIGHT SEARCHING IN VAIN FOR THE SPORTS WRITER, BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN TO THE BATCAVE...
LET'S HOPE THE POLICE'S ALL POINTS BULLETIN ON TINNEY BRINGS RESULTS!
YOU BETTER GRAB SOME SLEEP, ROBIN--
WHILE I TAKE CARE OF A FEW THINGS IN THE BATCAVE!


IF ONLY I COULD TELL ROBIN THAT I'VE FIGURED OUT WHO THE NEXT ROUND-ROBIN VICTIM WILL BE--
ME--BRUCE WAYNE--WHO BEGAN THIS MURDER-GO-ROUND!
12

FROM THIS MOMENT ON MY LIFE IS IN DEADLY DANGER! A SIMPLE THING LIKE ANSWERING A TELEPHONE--A DOORBELL--COULD DOOM ME!
SOMEHOW, DESPITE THE RESTRAINT PUT ON ME, I MUST ALERT ROBIN--
SO IN CASE THE WORST HAPPENS TO ME--HE CAN CARRY ON AND BRING THE REAL CULPRIT TO JUSTICE!
ROBIN MUST FIND OUT--FROM WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO--
THAT SEVEN YEARS AGO THERE WAS A SCIENTIST-TURNED-CRIMINAL--"DOC" HASTINGS--
WHO USED HIS SCIENTIFIC SKILLS TO ROB IN GOTHAM CITY...
"ONE NIGHT AT THE GOTHAM LABORATORIES, HASTINGS OVERCAME THE NIGHT WATCHMAN..."
"BY THE TIME HASTINGS HAD ACCUMULATED HIS LOOT AND WAS RACING OUT OF THE LAB, THE WATCHMAN CAME TO AND..."
GOT TO SOUND THE ALARM...
STOP THAT CROOK...
"AS THAT WHISTLE-BLAST RANG OUT--COMMISSIONER GORDON, SPORTS WRITER FRED TINNEY AND I--BRUCE WAYNE--WERE RETURNING FROM A GOTHAM GARDEN SPORTS SHOW..."
TWEEET
THAT'S A POLICE WHISTLE!
THAT MAN HOTFOOTING IT TOWARD US--MUST BE A THIEF!
THE THREE OF US CAN STOP HIM!
BECAUSE WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTURING HIM, HASTINGS SWORE VENGEANCE ON ALL FOUR OF US--
THE NIGHT WATCHMAN JOHN KOBLER, GORDON, TINNEY, AND MYSELF...


FOR SEVERAL AGONIZED MOMENTS, BATMAN SCRATCHES A PEN ACROSS PAPER... HIS HAND SHAKING WITH EFFORT... SWEAT BEADING HIS FOREHEAD, STAINING HIS MASK...
WILL ROBIN UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE WRITTEN THIS WILL?
WHEN HE IS DONE, HIS EYES SCAN WHAT HE HAS WRITTEN...
I, Bruce Wayne, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make and declare this to be my last will and testament. FIRST, I give, devise and bequeath to the Wayne Foundation all of my estate, both real and personal, with the following exception: To my ward Dick Grayson, known also as Robin, the Boy Wonder, I leave the round sum of Ten Dollars and sixty-six Cents. Bruce Wayne (ALIAS) Batman
NOW--IF I FAIL TO PREVENT MY MURDER--ROBIN HAS ENOUGH TO GO ON AND FIND MY KILLER--IF HE CAN READ BETWEEN THESE LINES!
CAN YOU SOLVE THE CLUE LEFT BY BATMAN FOR ROBIN? TRY IT--THEN GO ON TO THE EERIE CLIMAX OF THIS STORY!
14

Answers to BAT-TRIVIA QUIZ!

1 - C) ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS

2 - B) KATHY KANE

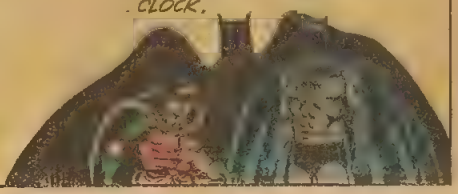
3 - A) BAT-MITE

4 - D) ACE

5 - B) "BAT-GIRL"

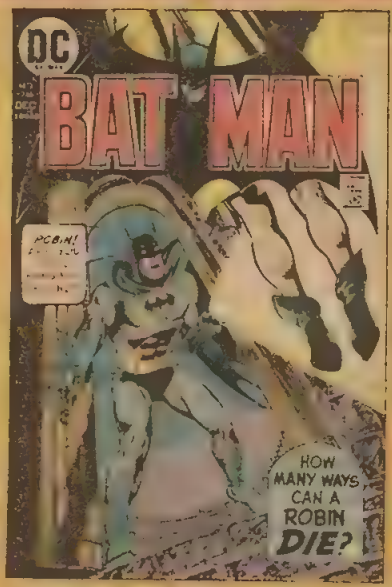
6 - A) BENEATH WAYNE MANOR.

7 - A) DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS BEHIND A GRANDFATHER CLOCK.



COMEDY COVER CAPERS

HERE ARE SOME BATMAN COVERS FROM YEARS PAST--ONLY WE'VE CHANGED THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE TO GIVE IT A HUMOROUS SLANT!



(FOR THE ORIGINAL COVER BALLOONS, SEE PAGE 63)

BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
FOUR MEN RIDING A MURDER-GO-ROUND--EACH DOOMED TO K.I.L.L. THE ONE IN FRONT OF HIM--WITH THE REAL ASSASSIN SECRETLY WORKING THE CONTROLS!
ALTHOUGH BATMAN AND ROBIN MANAGE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THREE OF THEM ... THEY ARE COMPLETELY HELPLESS TO SAVE THE FOURTH VICTIM ... BRUCE WAYNE!
BUT EVEN IN HIS DESPERATE PLIGHT, BATMAN KNOWS--AND HOPES ROBIN WILL KNOW--THAT...
BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE
POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON
WHERE THERE'S A WILL--THERE'S A SLAY!
JOHN KOBLER, RETIRED WATCHMAN
FRED TINNEY, SPORTS WRITER
NOW THAT YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO RESIST, BATMAN--I'M GOING TO SIZZLE YOU TO A CRISP!
STORY BY GARDNER FOX
ART BY CARMINE INFANTINO & SID GREENE
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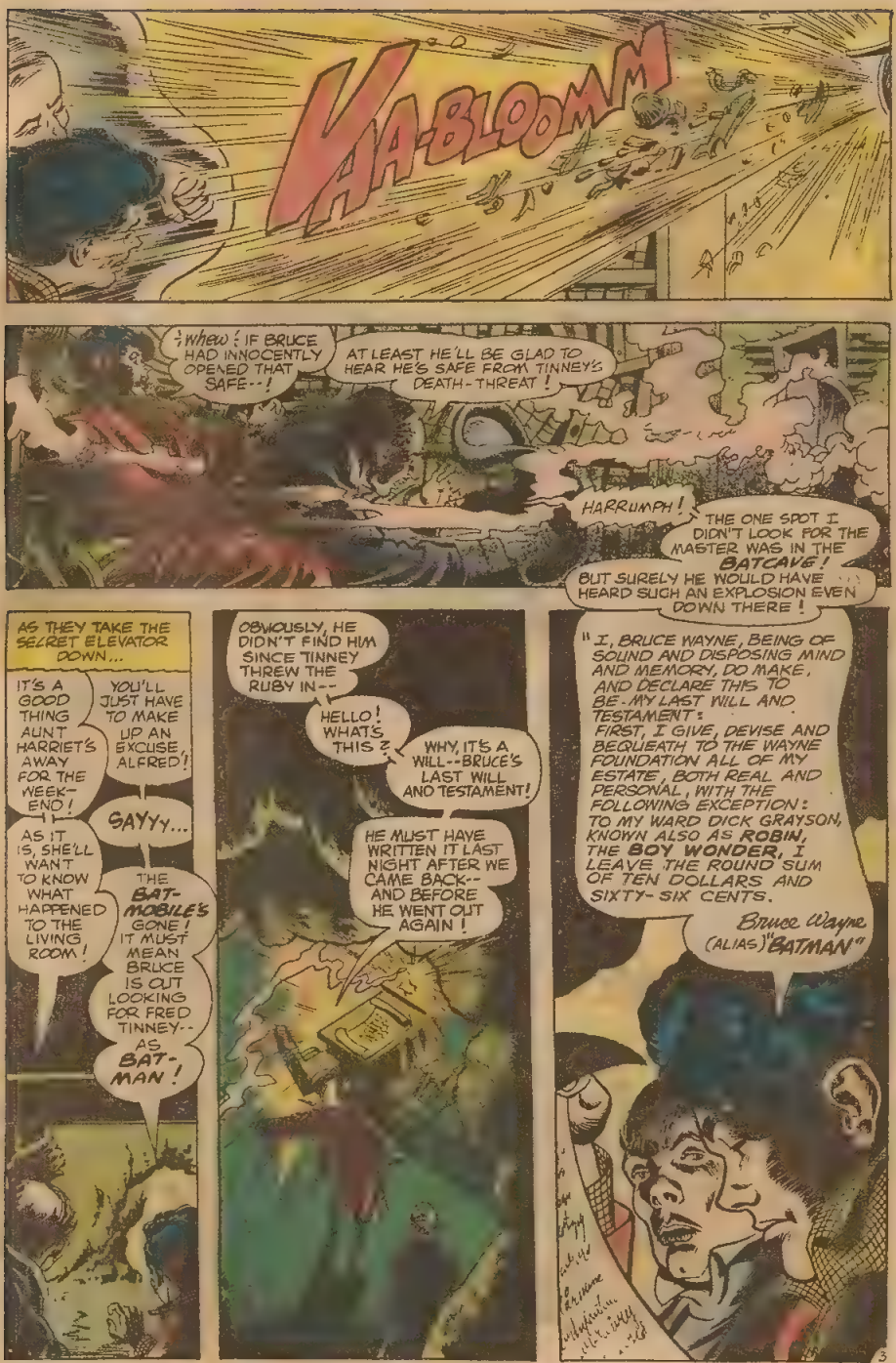
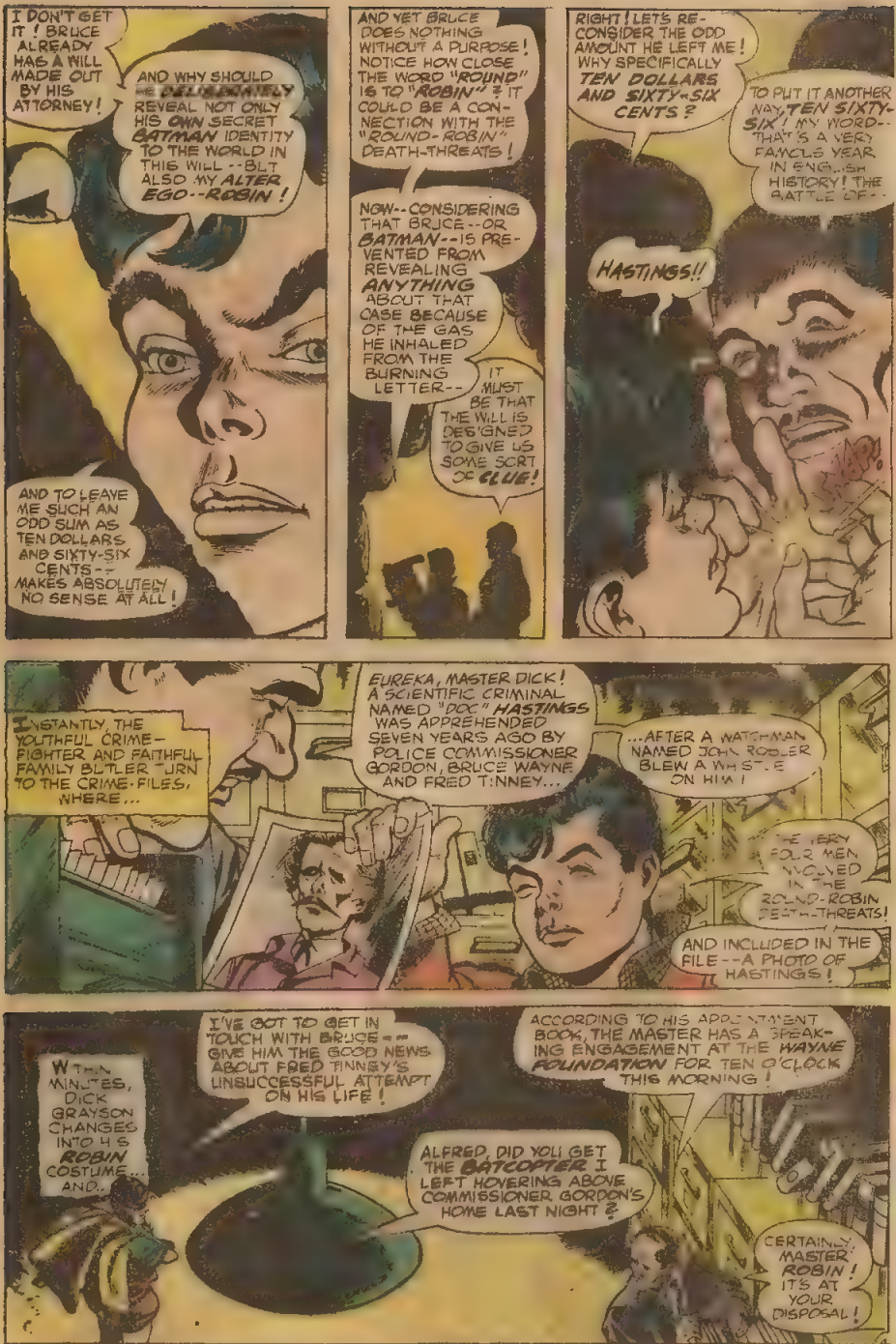
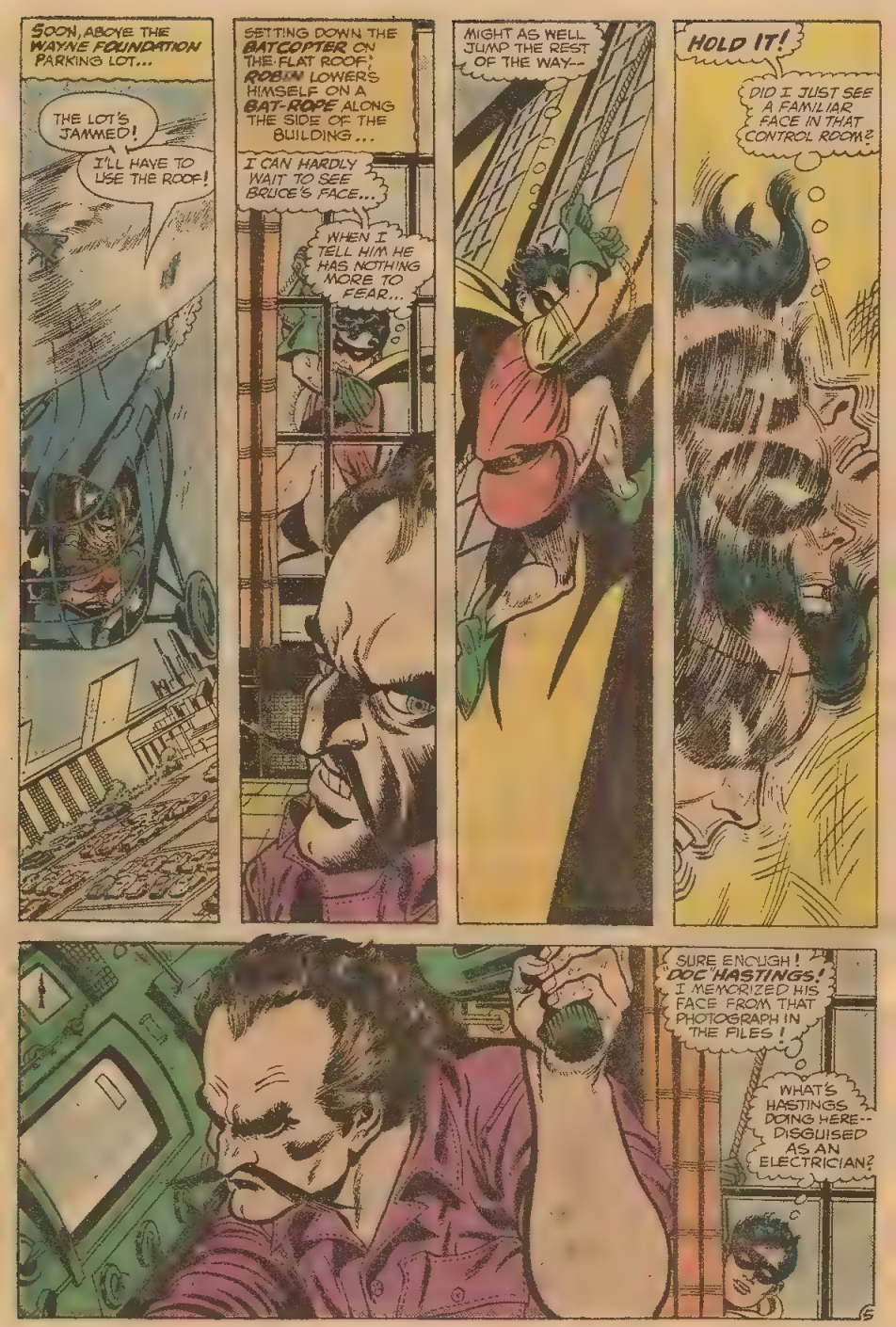
IT IS EARLY MORNING IN THE MANSION OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE. THROUGH A SHATTERING WINDOW COMES A RUBY...
KRAASH
IN AN UPSTAIRS BEDROOM, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON BELTS HIS DRESSING GOWN AND SHOUTS...
BRUCE!
ALFRED!
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHO BROKE WHAT DOWNSTAIRS?
MOMENTS AFTERWARD, IN THE LIVING ROOM...
ALFRED, LOOK!
THAT'S THE RAJAH RUBY LEFT TO BRUCE BY HIS FATHER!
BUT HOW'D IT GET OUT OF THE WALL SAFE WHERE BRUCE ALWAYS KEEPS IT?
AND--
WHO FLUNG IT THROUGH THE WINDOW, MASTER DICK?
ALFRED--I WONDER IF THIS RUBY COULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY THE MYSTERIOUS KILLER--
AND MAILED TO TINNEY WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO FLING IT INTO BRUCE'S LIVING ROOM..?
BUT HOW COULD THE RUBY POSS'BLY KILL MR. WAYNE?
IT SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH!
THE RUBY'S HARMLESS--
BUT I BET THAT SAFE ISN'T!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
IF THE MASTER WERE HERE, HE'D PROMPTLY PUT THE RUBY BACK!
BUT MR. WAYNE IS NOWHERE ABOUT!
IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF SKULDUGGERY--THE MURDER--MASTERMIND BOOBY-TRAPPED THE SAFE AFTER REMOVING THE RAJAH RUBY!
I'M GOING TO OPEN THE SAFE AND SEE IF I'M RIGHT!
SOME MINUTES LATER...
THIS SHIELD FROM MR. WAYNE'S MEDIEVAL ARMS COLLECTION WILL SERVE TO PROTECT US!
HERE GOES... AS I TURN THE DIAL WITH THIS EXTENSION ARM!
RIGHT... LEFT TO ... BACK TO 4 AND THEN THE FINAL NUMBER...


KA-BLOOMM
;whew! IF BRUCE HAD INNOCENTLY OPENED THAT SAFE--!
AT LEAST HE'LL BE GLAD TO HEAR HE'S SAFE FROM TINNEY'S DEATH-THREAT!
HARRUMPH!
THE ONE SPOT I DIDN'T LOOK FOR THE MASTER WAS IN THE BATCAVE!
BUT SURELY HE WOULD HAVE HEARD SUCH AN EXPLOSION EVEN DOWN THERE!
AS THEY TAKE THE SECRET ELEVATOR DOWN...
IT'S A GOOD THING AUNT HARRIET'S AWAY FOR THE WEEK-END!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE, ALFRED!
SAYYy...
AS IT IS, SHE'LL WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIVING ROOM!
THE BAT-MOBILE'S GONE! IT MUST MEAN BRUCE IS OUT LOOKING FOR FRED TINNEY-- AS BAT-MAN!
OBWOUSLY, HE DIDN'T FIND HIM SINCE TINNEY THREW THE RUBY IN--
HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?
WHY, IT'S A WILL--BRUCE'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT!
HE MUST HAVE WRITTEN IT LAST NIGHT AFTER WE CAME BACK-- AND BEFORE HE WENT OUT AGAIN!
"I, BRUCE WAYNE, BEING OF SOUND AND DISPOSING MIND AND MEMORY, DO MAKE, AND DECLARE THIS TO BE-MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT: FIRST, I GIVE, DEVISE AND BEQUEATH TO THE WAYNE FOUNDATION ALL OF MY ESTATE, BOTH REAL AND PERSONAL, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTION: TO MY WARD DICK GRAYSON, KNOWN ALSO AS ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, I LEAVE THE ROUND SUM OF TEN DOLLARS AND SIXTY-SIX CENTS.
Bruce Wayne (ALIAS) "BATMAN"
3

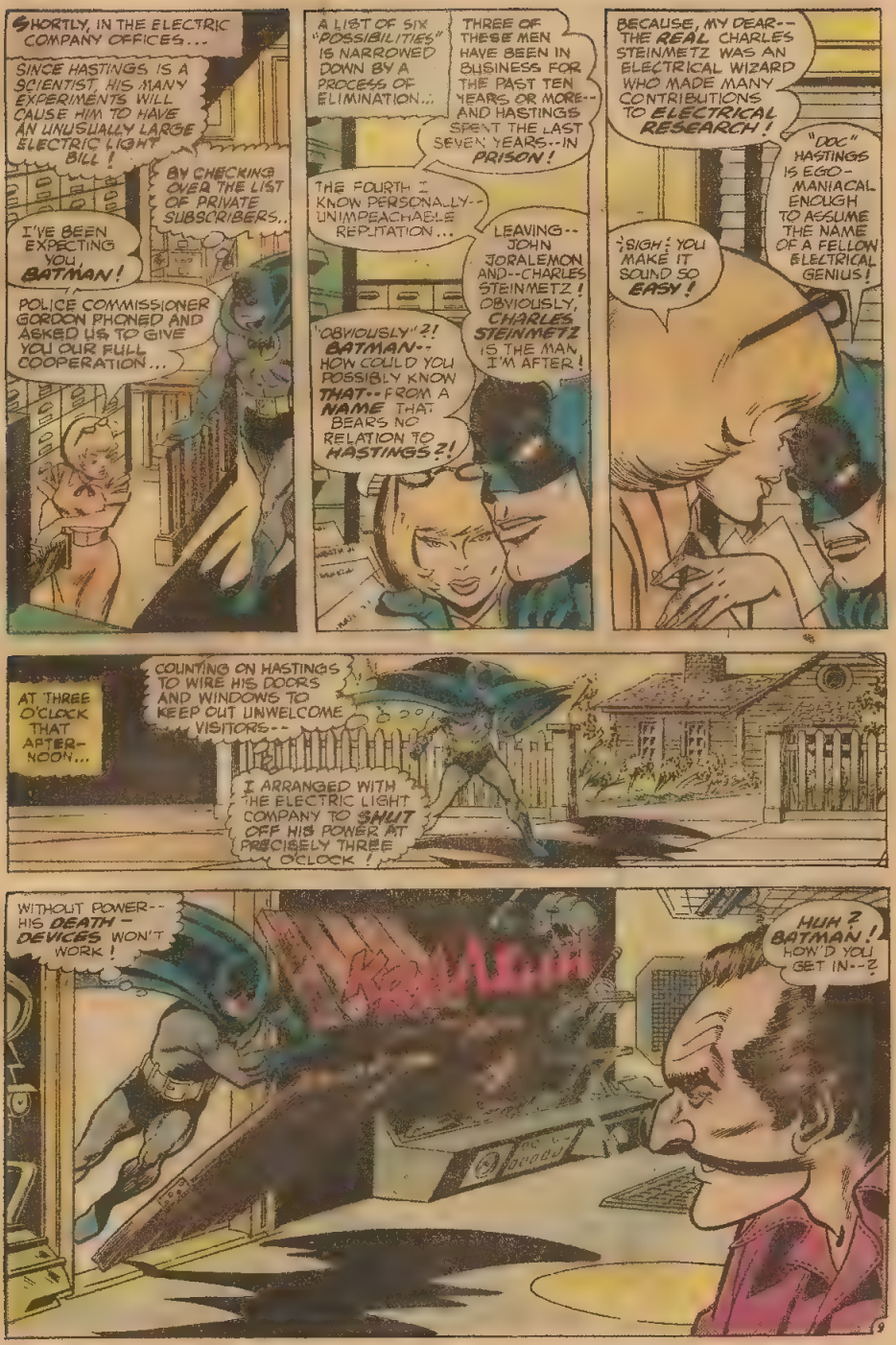

I DON'T GET IT! BRUCE ALREADY HAS A WILL MADE OUT BY HIS ATTORNEY!
AND WHY SHOULD HE DELIBERATELY REVEAL NOT ONLY HIS OWN SECRET BATMAN IDENTITY TO THE WORLD IN THIS WILL--BUT ALSO MY ALTER EGO--ROBIN!
AND TO LEAVE ME SUCH AN ODD SUM AS TEN DOLLARS AND SIXTY-SIX CENTS--MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE AT ALL!
AND YET BRUCE DOES NOTHING WITHOUT A PURPOSE! NOTICE HOW CLOSE THE WORD "ROUND" IS TO "ROBIN"? IT COULD BE A CONNECTION WITH THE "ROUND-ROBIN" DEATH-THREATS!
NOW--CONSIDERING THAT BRUCE--OR BATMAN--IS PREVENTED FROM REVEALING ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CASE BECAUSE OF THE GAS HE INHALED FROM THE BURNING LETTER--
IT MUST BE THAT THE WILL IS DESIGNED TO GIVE US SOME SORT OF CLUE!
RIGHT! LET'S RECONSIDER THE ODD AMOUNT HE LEFT ME! WHY SPECIFICALLY TEN DOLLARS AND SIXTY-SIX CENTS?
TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, TEN SIXTY-SIX! MY WORD--THAT'S A VERY FAMOUS YEAR IN ENGLISH HISTORY! THE BATTLE OF--
HASTINGS!!
INSTANTLY, THE YOUTHFUL CRIME-FIGHTER AND FAITHFUL FAMILY BUTLER TURN TO THE CRIME-FILES, WHERE...
EUREKA, MASTER DICK! A SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL NAMED "DOC" HASTINGS WAS APPREHENDED SEVEN YEARS AGO BY POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, BRUCE WAYNE AND FRED TINNEY...
...AFTER A WATCHMAN NAMED JOHN ROBLER BLEW A WHISTLE ON HIM!
THE VERY FOUR MEN INVOLVED IN THE ROUND-ROBIN DEATH-THREATS!
AND INCLUDED IN THE FILE--A PHOTO OF HASTINGS!
WITHIN MINUTES, DICK GRAYSON CHANGES INTO HIS ROBIN COSTUME... AND...
I'VE GOT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH BRUCE--GIVE HIM THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT FRED TINNEY'S UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE!
ACCORDING TO HIS APPOINTMENT BOOK, THE MASTER HAS A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION FOR TEN O'CLOCK THIS MORNING!
ALFRED, DID YOU GET THE BATCOPTER I LEFT HOVERING ABOVE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S HOME LAST NIGHT?
CERTAINLY, MASTER ROBIN! IT'S AT YOUR DISPOSAL!


SOON, ABOVE THE WAYNE FOUNDATION PARKING LOT...
THE LOT'S JAMMED!
I'LL HAVE TO USE THE ROOF!
SETTING DOWN THE BATCOPTER ON THE FLAT ROOF, ROBIN LOWERS HIMSELF ON A BAT-ROPE ALONG THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING...
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE BRUCE'S FACE...
WHEN I TELL HIM HE HAS NOTHING MORE TO FEAR...
MIGHT AS WELL JUMP THE REST OF THE WAY--
HOLD IT!
DID I JUST SEE A FAMILIAR FACE IN THAT CONTROL ROOM?
SURE ENOUGH! DOC HASTINGS! I MEMORIZED HIS FACE FROM THAT PHOTOGRAPH IN THE FILES!
WHAT'S HASTINGS DOING HERE-- DISGUISED AS AN ELECTRICIAN?

NEXT INSTANT...
HASTINGS--I'M TAKING YOU OFF YOUR MURDER-GO-ROUND!
WHAT?!
IT'S ROBIN! AND IF HE'S HERE-- BATMAN CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND!
CRAASH!
I PLANNED EVERYTHING SO CAREFULLY--SO AS NOT TO INVOLVE MYSELF!
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
HOW COULD BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE LEARNED WHAT I WAS DOING?
BUT--NO MATTER! BRUCE WAYNE'S STILL ALIVE--
AND I'VE GOT TO KILL HIM OFF MYSELF!
AND NO ROBIN'S GOING TO STOP ME!
THUD!
AS SOON AS BRUCE WAYNE--WHO IS A HEAD TALLER THAN THAT INTRODUCTORY SPEAKER--LIFTS THE MIKE TO HIS OWN LIP LEVEL--HE'S A GONER!
SO THAT'S HIS PLOT!
OFF
GOT TO--THROW THAT SWITCH BACK TO OFF POSITION--
--OR BRUCE DIES!
FRAMED IN THE TELEVISION SCREEN ABOVE HIM THE HORRIFIED BOY SEES...
I WARN YOU, ROBIN! MOVE THAT SWITCH AND YOU DIE TOO!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME-- IF I SAVE BRUCE!
HE'S ABOUT TO RAISE THE LETHAL MIKE!
ON
OFF

SO VIOLENTLY DOES THE BOY WONDER YANK AT THE SWITCH THAT...
SNAP
HASTINGS' FIRING SOME KIND OF ELECTRONIC GUN... AT ME!
NOW THAT I'VE SAVED BRUCE, GOT TO SAVE MY OWN LIFE!
I COULDN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH-- OHHH!
NOBODY CAN STAND AN ELECTRIC BLAST LIKE THAT!
ROBIN-- YOU'RE FINISHED!
BY THE TIME WAYNE FINISHES THANKING THE MILLIONAIRES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...
I'LL HAVE SET ANOTHER DEATH-TRAP FOR HIM!
ONE THAT HE CANNOT POSSIBLY ESCAPE!
NOW TO BOOBY-TRAP ROBIN'S BODY!
AS MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE CONCLUDES HIS REMARKS, AND THE AUDIENCE BURSTS INTO A DEAFENING APPLAUSE, HE HEARS COMING FROM THE MICROPHONE...
BRUCE WAYNE! IF YOU WANT TO SAVE ROBIN'S LIFE--COME AT ONCE TO THE CONTROL ROOM ADJOINING THE AUDITORIUM!
COME ALONE! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!
THAT VOICE! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE! IT BELONGS TO "DOC" HASTINGS!
CHANCES ARE THE ROUND-ROBIN KILLER IS SETTING A DEATH-TRAP FOR ME-- BUT WHERE ROBIN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE-- NO ODDS ARE TOO GREAT!
HEEDLESS OF HIS PERSONAL DANGER, BRUCE RACES INTO THE CONTROL ROOM...
ROBIN! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
BETTER CARRY HIM TO THE CAR--RUSH HIM TO A HOSPITAL!
BRUCE DOESN'T KNOW IT-- HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY? . . THAT WHEN HE [illegible] ROBIN-- IT WILL BE THE LAST MOVE OF HIS LIFE!

THE HANDS OF BRUCE WAYNE REACH OUT--THEN PAUSE...
ROBIN'S SKIN--BLUISH! HE'S HARDLY BREATHING! HIS BODY--RIGID, STIFF!
THE SYMPTOMS OF ELECTRIC SHOCK--WHEN AN ELECTRIC CURRENT PASSES THROUGH THE BREATHING CENTER AT THE BASE OF THE BRAIN--AND CAUSES BREATHING TO STOP...
IF THE ELECTRIC SHOCK WASN'T TOO SEVERE--
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING HIM AROUND--BY ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION--
--EVEN IF IT MEANS WORKING OVER HIM FOR HOURS!
STIFFNESS OF A BODY IS NOT AN ABSOLUTE SIGN TO STOP ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION--ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID HANDBOOK!
WITHIN MOMENTS, A HALF-ALIVE ROBIN GRINS UP AT HIS RESCUER..
HI...THERE... BRUCE...
IT'S WORKING FASTER THAN I DARED HOPE...
THAT WAS QUITE A WILL...YOU LEFT IN THE BATCAVE ¡OWOOO!
ROBIN--WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SOMETHING... STICKING INTO MY BACK... LIKE A BASEBALL...
YES--I FEEL SOMETHING! DON'T MOVE! THAT OBJECT UNDER YOU IS--A GRENADE!
"DOC" HASTINGS' DEATH-TRAP FOR ME!
YOUR BODY WEIGHT KEPT THE PLUNGER DOWN--PREVENTING THE GRENADE FROM EXPLODING!
SLOWLY--CAREFULLY--GRIPPING THE PLUNGER HARD--HE DRAWS OUT THE LETHAL BOMB...
HAD I ATTEMPTED TO LIFT YOU AS I FIRST INTENDED--BEFORE I RECOGNIZED THE SYMPTOMS OF ELECTRIC SHOCK--I'D HAVE KILLED US BOTH!
HASTINGS THOUGHT I WAS DEAD--OVERLOOKING THE FACT THAT I ABSORBED THE GUN'S ELECTRIC BLAST IN MID-AIR--WHEN I WASN'T GROUNDED!
AFTER BRUCE DE-ACTIVATES THE GRENADE AND ROBIN FILLS HIM IN ON THE INCIDENTS LEADING TO HIS PRESENCE HERE...
YOU NEED TO REST UP, ROBIN! TAKE THE BATCOPTER HOME! I'M GOING AFTER MY "KILLER"--AS BATMAN!
BUT HOW CAN YOU FIND HASTINGS? WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS!
I'M GOING TO GET A LIST OF NAMES FROM THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY! THAT LIST WILL TELL ME WHERE HE'S HIDING OUT!


SHORTLY, IN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY OFFICES...
SINCE HASTINGS IS A SCIENTIST, HIS MANY EXPERIMENTS WILL CAUSE HIM TO HAVE AN UNUSUALLY LARGE ELECTRIC LIGHT BILL!
BY CHECKING OVER THE LIST OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS..
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, BATMAN!
POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON PHONED AND ASKED US TO GIVE YOU OUR FULL COOPERATION...
A LIST OF SIX "POSSIBILITIES" IS NARROWED DOWN BY A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION...
THREE OF THESE MEN HAVE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS OR MORE--AND HASTINGS SPENT THE LAST SEVEN YEARS--IN PRISON!
THE FOURTH I KNOW PERSONALLY--UNIMPEACHABLE REPUTATION...
LEAVING--JOHN JORALEMON AND--CHARLES STEINMETZ! OBVIOUSLY, CHARLES STEINMETZ IS THE MAN I'M AFTER!
"OBVIOUSLY"?! BATMAN--HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT--FROM A NAME THAT BEARS NO RELATION TO HASTINGS?!
BECAUSE, MY DEAR--THE REAL CHARLES STEINMETZ WAS AN ELECTRICAL WIZARD WHO MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ELECTRICAL RESEARCH!
"DOC" HASTINGS IS EGO-MANIACAL ENOUGH TO ASSUME THE NAME OF A FELLOW ELECTRICAL GENIUS!
SIGH! YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY!
AT THREE O'CLOCK THAT AFTERNOON...
COUNTING ON HASTINGS TO WIRE HIS DOORS AND WINDOWS TO KEEP OUT UNWELCOME VISITORS--
I ARRANGED WITH THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY TO SHUT OFF HIS POWER AT PRECISELY THREE O'CLOCK!
WITHOUT POWER--HIS DEATH-DEVICES WON'T WORK!
KA-LAM!
HUH? BATMAN! HOW'D YOU GET IN--?

SO YOU LEARNED HOW I KILLED ROBIN, eh? AND YOU'RE ASKING FOR THE SAME TREATMENT?
WELL--HERE IT IS!
WHAT?! IT DOESN'T WORK!
YOUR POWER'S BEEN TURNED OFF, HASTINGS--JUST AS I'M ABOUT TO TURN YOU OFF!
WITH A "MAJOR OUTER HOOK" JUDO THROW!
YOU'RE FIGHTING ON MY GROUNDS, BATMAN--AND THE ADVANTAGE IS ALL MINE!
HASTINGS, I CAN TAKE YOU ANY TIME, ANY WHERE, ANY HOW!
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, BATMAN! I AM PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY--EVEN A MASSIVE POWER FAILURE!
HOSPITALS HAVE AUXILIARY GENERATORS--SO WHY SHOULDN'T I?
AS HE STEPS ONTO A METAL PLATE SUNKEN IN THE FLOOR, THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS WHIRLED UPWARD OFF HIS FEET...
I'M FLOATING IN AIR--AS IF THERE WERE NO GRAVITY!
HA! HA! HA! THANKS TO THE METAL IN YOUR UTILITY BELT, YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN A MAGNETIC FIELD BETWEEN A METAL PLATE ON THE FLOOR AND AN ELECTRO-MAGNET ABOVE YOU!
NOW I'LL FINISH YOU OFF AS I DID ROBIN--WITH MY ELECTRIGUN!
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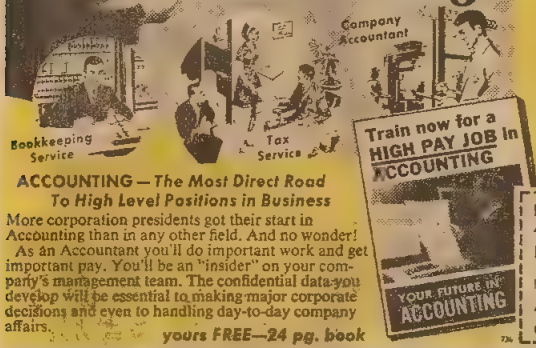

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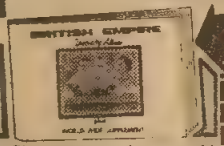

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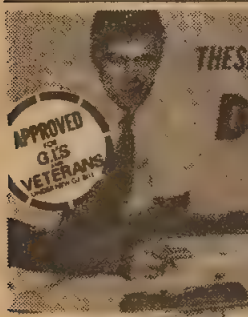

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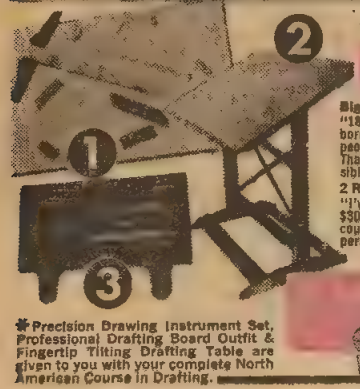

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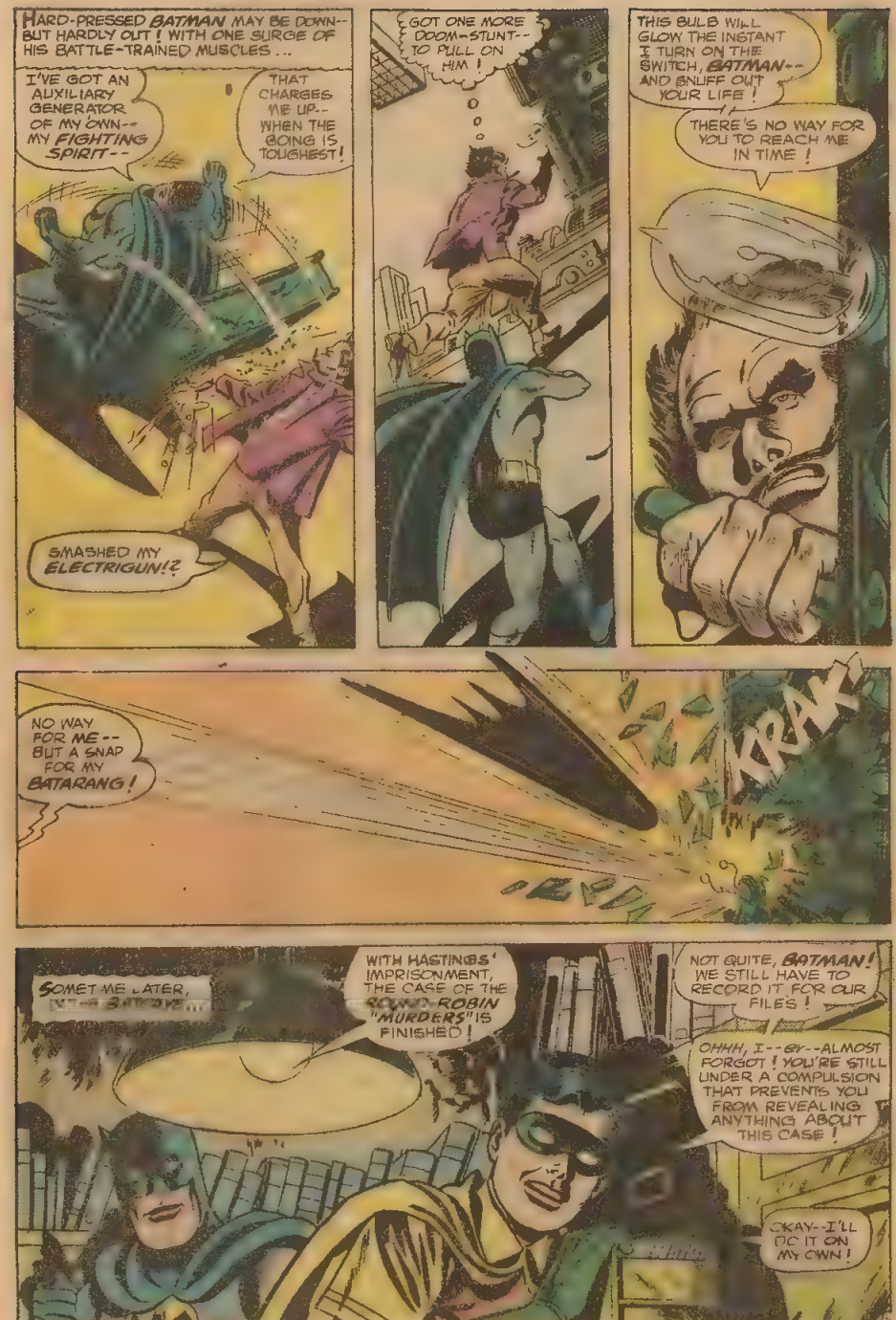
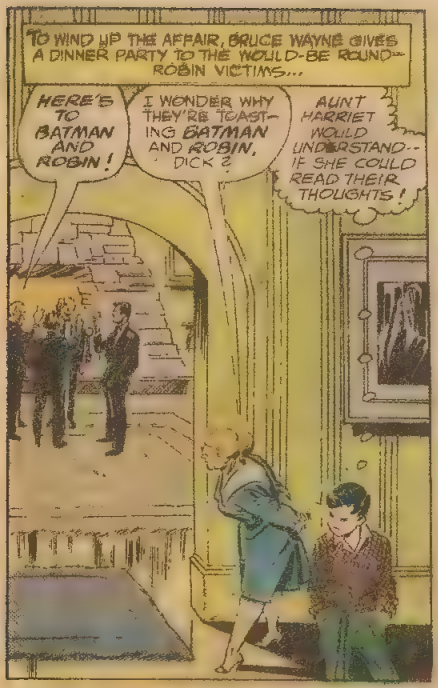
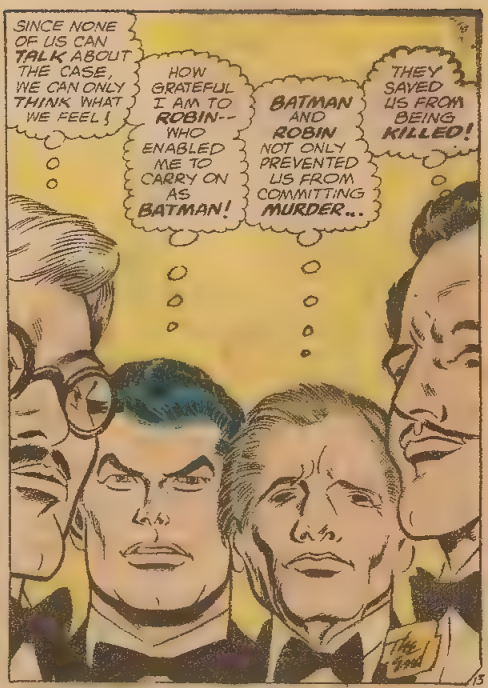
WITH CAT-LIKE SPEED, THE COWLED CRUSADER LASHES OUT WITH A BOOTED FOOT...
ONHH!
THE REACTION TO THIS FORWARD MOVEMENT SHOULD DRIVE ME IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION--OUT OF THE GRIP OF THE MAGNETIC FORCE!
LANDING OUTSIDE THE MAGNETIC FIELD, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AGAIN DASHES AT THE ELECTRICAL WIZARD, TAKING CARE TO CIRCLE AROUND THE METAL PLATE ON THE FLOOR...
YOU'RE A KIND OF MAGNET YOURSELF, "DOC"--
YOU ATTRACT MY FIST WITH IRRESISTIBLE FORCE!
EVEN AS HE IS SPRAWLED OUT ON THE FLOOR, HASTINGS RAMS A HEEL INTO A LENGTH OF INLAID GLASS...
WATCH IT, BATMAN! I HAVE MORE TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE--OR FOOT--THAN A STAGE MAGICIAN!
THE GLASS PLATE I'M BREAKING, FOR INSTANCE--
KRAAK
--RELEASES AN OVERHANGING IRON GRID I'VE BEEN TESTING FOR METALLIC FATIGUE!
NOW THAT YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO RESIST--I'M GOING TO SIZZLE YOU TO A CRISP!
I KNOW IT ISN'T SPORTING TO HIT A MAN WHILE HE'S DOWN--
--BUT THEN, NOBODY EVER ACCUSED ME OF BEING A GOOD SPORT!

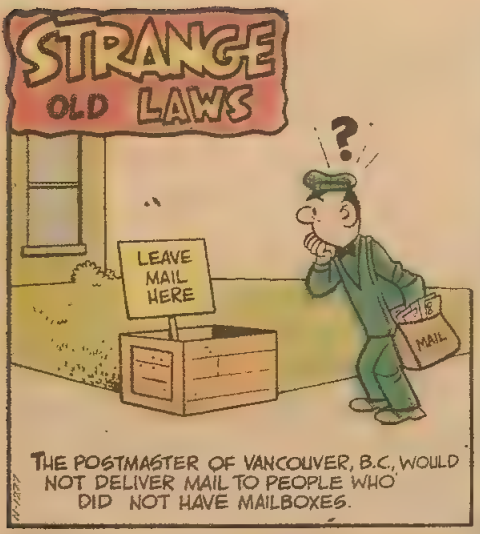

HARD-PRESSED BATMAN MAY BE DOWN--BUT HARDLY OUT! WITH ONE SURGE OF HIS BATTLE-TRAINED MUSCLES ...
I'VE GOT AN AUXILIARY GENERATOR OF MY OWN--MY FIGHTING SPIRIT--
THAT CHARGES ME UP--WHEN THE GOING IS TOUGHEST!
SMASHED MY ELECTRIGUN!?
GOT ONE MORE DOOM-STUNT--TO PULL ON HIM!
THIS BULB WILL GLOW THE INSTANT I TURN ON THE SWITCH, BATMAN--AND SNUFF OUT YOUR LIFE!
THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO REACH ME IN TIME!
NO WAY FOR ME--BUT A SNAP FOR MY BATARANG!
KRAK
SOMETIME LATER, IN THE BATCAVE...
WITH HASTINGS' IMPRISONMENT, THE CASE OF THE BOY WONDER "MURDERS" IS FINISHED!
NOT QUITE, BATMAN! WE STILL HAVE TO RECORD IT FOR OUR FILES!
OHHH, I--SY--ALMOST FORGOT! YOU'RE STILL UNDER A COMPULSION THAT PREVENTS YOU FROM REVEALING ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CASE!
OKAY--I'LL DO IT ON MY OWN!


TO WIND UP THE AFFAIR, BRUCE WAYNE GIVES A DINNER PARTY TO THE WOULD-BE ROUND-ROBIN VICTIMS...
HERE'S TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!
I WONDER WHY THEY'RE TOASTING BATMAN AND ROBIN, DICK?
AUNT HARRIET WOULD UNDERSTAND--IF SHE COULD READ THEIR THOUGHTS!

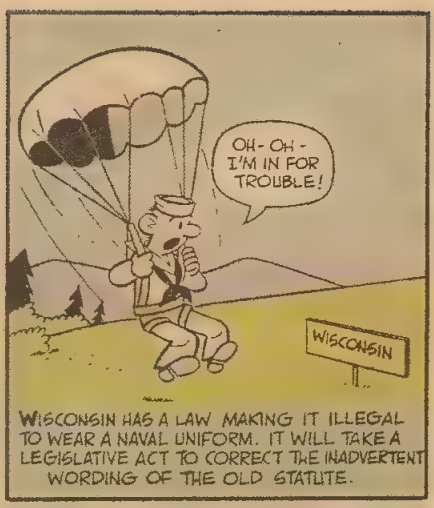

SINCE NONE OF US CAN TALK ABOUT THE CASE, WE CAN ONLY THINK WHAT WE FEEL!
HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO ROBIN--WHO ENABLED ME TO CARRY ON AS BATMAN!
BATMAN AND ROBIN NOT ONLY PREVENTED US FROM COMMITTING MURDER...
THEY SAVED US FROM BEING KILLED!

HERE IS THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE FOR THE COVERS on page 48

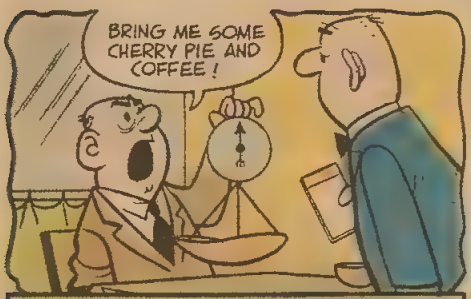
STRANGE OLD LAWS



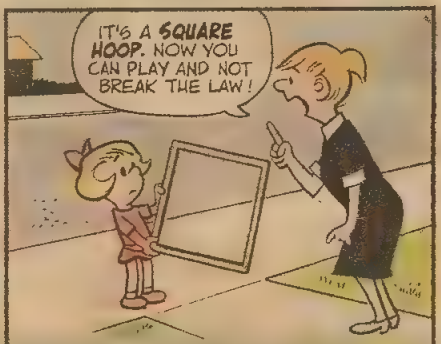
THE POSTMASTER OF VANCOUVER, B.C., WOULD NOT DELIVER MAIL TO PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE MAILBOXES.



WISCONSIN HAS A LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO WEAR A NAVAL UNIFORM. IT WILL TAKE A LEGISLATIVE ACT TO CORRECT THE INADVERTENT WORDING OF THE OLD STATUTE.



IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN, A LAW DECREED THAT A CHERRY PIE SERVED IN RESTAURANTS MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE POUND OF CHERRIES.



TRIADELPHIA, WEST VIRGINIA, ONCE FORBID YOU TO ROLL A HOOP IN THE CITY LIMITS.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE--

HELLO! I'M *THE RIDDLER*-- AND I HAVE ONE FOR YOU...

WHAT DO I DO THAT EVERY CROOK WITH A *TOMMY GUN* WOULD LIKE TO DO?

ANSWER: I *RIDDLE THE BATMAN!*

AND YOU CAN BET I'LL BE DOING IT AGAIN IN MY LATEST CLASH WITH THE *DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE*--

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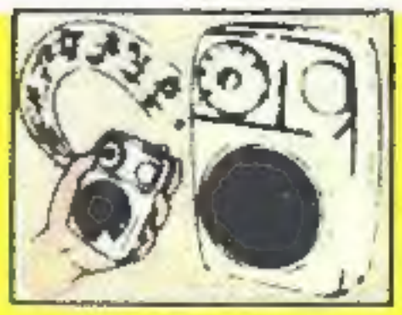
STATE_____ ZIP_____ AGE_____

COMPLETE FISHING OUTFITS



TRANSISTOR RADIO

BASKETBALL & GOAL

They make my customers' gardens grow as well as my bank account.
Scott Bloom
Washington

Last year I went to them (my customers). This year they came to me.
Lois Pease
Maine

It just wouldn't be spring if someone in our family didn't sell American Seeds.
Tom DeLaney
Pennsylvania

CROQUET SET

JR. GUITARS

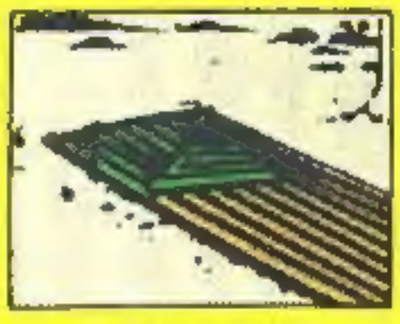
WRIST WATCHES

VOLLEYBALL SET

TENNIS RACKET

SWIM SET

CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER



SLEEPING BAGS

30-POWER TELESCOPE

COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS

FLYING MODELS

CHEMISTRY SETS

BICYCLES

PORTABLE TYPEWRITER

MAGIC SET

MICROSCOPE SETS

FOUR PLAYER BADMINTON

INSTANT LOAD CAMERA

MAKE MONEY
GET PRIZES
with Fast Selling American Seeds

Take your choice of 100 wonderful prizes. You can earn as many as you want. Most prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given WITHOUT COST for selling just one 45-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 40¢ a pack. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money as explained in the Big Prize Book.

Send NO MONEY, We Trust You

Everybody wants American Seeds. They're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day. You can, too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep $6.00 for every 45-pack order you sell.

USE THESE COUPONS ONLY

To order your seeds, fill out one of *these* coupons and mail in an envelope to:

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 531
Lancaster, Pa. 17604
OUR 57th YEAR

MAIL ONE COUPON TODAY
Give the Other to a Friend

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 531 Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 45 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 40¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 531 Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 45 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 40¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

WIN

Here's your chance to help
Whip
Inflation
Now
in your neighborhood with
American Seeds